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OF

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VOLUME XX.

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*Interior of Weston Church.*









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HISTORY OF THE MANOR AND PARISH OF  
WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD, IN THE  
COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

COMPILED FROM THE MSS. OF THE LATE

REV. THE HON. GEORGE T. O. BRIDGEMAN,  
RECTOR OF WIGAN,

BY THE

REV. ERNEST R. O. BRIDGEMAN, RECTOR OF BLYMILL,

AND

CHARLES G. O. BRIDGEMAN, Esq.,  
OF 11, STONE BUILDINGS, LINCOLN'S INN, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.



## P R E F A C E .

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THE late Canon Bridgeman had from a very early period of his life been collecting materials with a view to writing a history of the manor and parish of Weston-under-Lizard, but the difficulty which he found in tracing and accounting satisfactorily for the devolution of title, which followed on the descent to the Weston coheirs in the reign of Edward III, caused him for a long time to hesitate about embarking on the task; and it was not until after the publication in the William Salt Archaeological Society's Staffordshire Historical Collections of the fruits of General Wrottesley's invaluable labours at the Record Office had thrown a flood of light upon the early history of the county, that Canon Bridgeman determined to face the undertaking. The first instalment of his History of Weston was published in Vol. XIV of the Society's Historical Collections, and at the time of his death he was engaged upon the continuation of this work, in which he had reached, either in proof or in manuscript, as far as the beginning of the 18th century and the devolution of the manor upon the family of Newport. With so much accomplished we felt bound to do our best to bring the work to a conclusion. On taking up the threads of his labours, however, we found that fresh and important materials were available, which had not been known to Canon Bridgeman, notably the fuller transcripts of the early Weston deeds in Additional MS. 18667 at the British Museum and the Shropshire inquisition taken on the death of Sir Adam de Peshale in 1419. Of the existence of the former Canon Bridgeman had indeed lately become aware, but he had not seen the MS. and was under the impression that, with the exception of a few additional deeds, it was merely a duplicate of the other MS. (Harleian MS. 5816), which he had himself previously copied in full, instead of its being, as it practically is, a complete chartulary of all Weston deeds then extant. Consequently he had not thought it necessary to obtain copies of any of the deeds transcribed there except those which were not noticed in the Harleian MS. The result of this new



evidence was to convince us that some of Canon Bridgeman's conclusions could not be maintained, and it became necessary for us thoroughly to revise the whole, and virtually to re-write a large part, of that portion of the work which we had hoped was almost ready for the press. If it had not been for General Wrottesley's kind encouragement and promise of help in case of need, we should hardly have ventured to attempt so much larger and more responsible an undertaking than we had anticipated; and we desire to take this opportunity of expressing to him our grateful thanks for his valuable advice and ever ready help, of which we have not hesitated to avail ourselves. We have endeavoured to ensure accuracy to the best of our ability by verifying all references and by collating with the originals at the Record Office, the British Museum, and elsewhere all extracts from inquisitions and other documents which had not already been published, but even in this matter we cannot expect to be entirely free from errors, while we are fully conscious that in other respects the work falls very far short of what a parochial history should be. We can only hope that this volume will be regarded by the members of the Society as an honest attempt by Canon Bridgeman's sons to fulfil their father's promise and complete the work upon which he was engaged up to the very time of his death.

E. R. O. B.

C. G. O. B.





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# HISTORY OF THE MANOR AND PARISH OF WESTON - UNDER - LIZARD, IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

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## I. THE DE WESTONS. (A.D. 1086-1349.)

THE Manor of Weston-under-Lizard in the Hundred of Colvestan (Cuttlestone) is thus mentioned in the Domesday Survey with other lands in the same tenure: "Rainald de Balgiole holds of the King 4 hides in Westone and Bertone and Brotone. Nine thanes held it in King Edward's time for nine manors. Here were 11 ox-teams. The arable laud is sufficient for 6 ox-teams. In demesne there are 3 ox-teams and 2 serfs and 10 villeins with 2 ox-teams. The wood of these estates is one league in length and half a league in breadth. It is worth 40s. Of this land Amerland holds 1 hide of Rainald. Thereon he has 3 serfs and 1 boor. It is worth 5s." In Pereholle (Pirehill) Hundred, "The same Rainald holds Niweton. Godwin held it and was a free man. Here is half a hide. The arable land is sufficient for 4 ox-teams. In demesne there is half a team and 8 villeins and 5 boors with 3 teams. Here is 1 serf and a mill of 4s. annual value and 2 acres of meadow, a wood 1 quarantine long and 1 broad. It is worth 40s."<sup>1</sup>

These lands and manors, viz., Weston, Beighterton (in the parish of Weston), Brockton (in the adjoining parish of Sheriff Hales), and Newton (in the parish of Blithfield), together with all the great estates which were held by Rainald de Balgiole as Vicecomes or Sheriff under Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury and Arundel, had been previously held by Warin the Bald, the

<sup>1</sup> Besides these manors, Rainald held many others of the Earl of Shrewsbury and of the Crown, in Staffordshire, Shropshire, and Warwickshire, which all passed to the House of FitzAlan.





first Sheriff of Shropshire, who must therefore be considered the first lord of Weston after the Conquest.

It appears that Roger de Montgomery gave them, with his niece Aimeria in marriage, to Warin the Bald, described by Ordericus as a man of low stature but of great spirit, who greatly assisted Earl Roger in his enterprise in Shropshire.<sup>1</sup>

This Warin the Sheriff was dead before 1085, leaving his wife Aimeria surviving, and a son and heir Hugh then a minor, who seems to have afterwards succeeded to his father's honour and estates in or about the year 1102-3, and to have died soon afterwards without issue.

In the meantime Rainald de Balgiote, *alias* de Bailleul, had married Aimeria the widow of Warin,<sup>2</sup> and appears in Domesday (A.D. 1085-6) as Vicecomes of Shropshire, and as holding all the manors, whether in Shropshire, Staffordshire, or elsewhere, which were held by Warin of Earl Roger or of the Crown, including the manors of Weston and Newton in Staffordshire. "The question," says Mr. Eyton, "whether Rainald held the shrievalty *in jure uxoris* or by appointment of the Earl, during the minority of Hugh, it is perhaps impossible to determine. The only recorded act of Aimeria during her short widowhood is a grant to Shrewsbury Abbey out of her dower, and not out of her *fee*. The inference from this would be that she was not regarded as Vicomtesse of Shropshire in her own right, and so, that Rainald obtained the honour independently of her."<sup>3</sup>

During the tenure of Warin the tithes of Weston narrowly escaped alienation to the Norman Abbey of St. Evroult (or Ebrulf) of Uticum. *Guarinus Vicecomes de Scrobesburia* is one of the witnesses to a charter of William the Conqueror to that house. This charter is dated at Winchester in 1081, and Warin's specific grants to the Abbey are therein enumerated. "He had given *Neuton* to that House; he had given the church of *Halis* [Sheriff Hales] with the tithes of that Manor; he had given the tithes of

<sup>1</sup> "Ordericus Vitalis" (Paris edition of 1855), Vol. II, p. 220.

<sup>2</sup> This fact has been doubted in consequence of Rainald being called, in more than one instance, *brother* of Warin. We must there interpret the word "brother" as "brother-in-law," or rather "widow's husband," for it is certain that Rainald married Aimeria (Eyton's "Houses of FitzAlan and Stuart," p. 10, *note*; "Archæological Journal," Vol. XIII, 1856. *cf.* Eyton's "Antiquities of Shropshire," Vol. VII, p. 208).

<sup>3</sup> Eyton's "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. VII, p. 205.



*Guestona* in Estafordescire;—and these gifts his Lord, Earl Roger, had allowed.”<sup>1</sup> But “Domesday verifies neither of these grants” [*sc.* Newton and Weston], “and we have other evidence that they never took effect, for Weston-under-Lizard and Newton, near Blithefield, continued for ages appurtenances of the Barony, held by Rainald’s successors, and without any appearance of St. Ebrulf having an interest in either. The probability is that, though William the Conqueror’s charter of 1081 had allowed Warin’s grants in Weston and Newton, they were disallowed before *Domesday*;—for they had been allowed under the erroneous impression that these places were part of the fief held by Warin under the Norman Earl (whose consent had been obtained), whereas they were held immediately of the King, whose consent to the primary grant had never been asked.”<sup>2</sup>

Rainald de Bailleul, the husband of Aimeria, was lord of Bailleul-en-Gouffern, a fief within the Forest of Gouffern, which he held under Roger de Montgomery, the Bourg of which was situated about ten miles north-west of the town of Oximæ or Exmes, the *caput* of Roger de Montgomery’s Vicomté of the Oximin.

It has been stated that Rainald de Bailleul was the Domesday lord of Weston and Newton. For a full account of him, and how he ceased to hold his English possessions, readers are referred to Eyton’s “Antiquities of Shropshire.”<sup>3</sup> He does not appear to have been implicated in the rebellion of Earl Robert, de Belesme in 1102, for he was employed in the Welsh wars as the King’s Lieutenant in Shropshire at the close of that year; but he probably gave up the shrievalty and the estates he held in right of Aimeria his wife about that time. Mr. Eyton believed there was good reason for thinking that Hugh, the son of Warin and Aimeria and step-son of Rainald, entered on his inheritance after the cession of the latter. “I use the word [cession] advisedly,” he says, “for it is clear to me that Rainald neither lost his shrievalty by forfeiture nor by death. He was in fact living in France as late as 1118.”<sup>4</sup> “It appears, from a passage of Ordericus, that in the spring of 1119 the inhabitants of Curceium (Courci sur Dive, near Falaise) and the Oximin, opining that the Normans were generally favourable to the cause of the King’s nephew, the son of Courte-house, deter-

<sup>1</sup> “Ant. Shrop.,” Vol. VII, p. 204; *cf.* “Ordericus Vitalis,” Vol. III, p. 21.

<sup>2</sup> “Ant. Shrop.,” Vol. VII, p. 207.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 205-211.

<sup>4</sup> “Houses of FitzAlan and Stuart,” p. 10, *note.* *cf.* “Ant. Shrop.,” Vol. VII, p. 210.



mined to espouse it. The King appears to have been at Falaise, and Rainald de Bailol attendant at the Court. The King, suspecting his loyalty, seems to have demanded the surrender of his castle or stronghold, Le Château Renouard. The borderer gave a haughty refusal, renounced his fealty to the King, and quitted Falaise. The King had declined to take measures for his arrest whilst at Court, but as soon as he was gone, called out the royal body-guard, and arrived that same evening at Château Renouard almost as soon as its master. Next morning Rainald surrendered the fortress (*lapideam domum*) with all its stores; and the King burnt it to the ground. The measure stifled the incipient rebellion of that district;—but we hear no more of Renaud de Bailleul. This man, however, whose fief, while yet he remained in England, was vast enough to grace any earldom,—whose after fame, as a crusader, was of European rather than provincial stature,—whose prestige or whose pride was so great as that he dared to confront the ablest Monarch of the age in his own Court,—this man has received no better treatment at the hands of our antiquaries and heralds than that his name should figure at the head of two respectable county pedigrees.”<sup>1</sup>

In the next generation, Hamelin, nephew of Raynald de Bailloil, was a grantor to St. Evroult, and Rozseline de Bailloil attests his grant.<sup>2</sup>

General Wrottesley says that, in 1108, Hamelin, nephew of Rainald de Bailleul, gave to the Abbey of Troarn his share of the tithes of St. Peter de Truves of the inheritance of his mother Basilia, that Rainald de Bailleul and William, his brother, confirmed this grant by deed dated in 1121, and that Hugh, son of Hamelin, confirmed it in 1122, which we may therefore assume to be the date of Hamelin's death.<sup>3</sup> Hamelin was probably the son of William de Bailleul.<sup>4</sup>

We may perhaps assume Hugh, the son of Warin, to have been the next *superior* lord of Weston after Warin and Rainald de

<sup>1</sup> “Ant. Shrop.,” Vol. VII, pp. 210, 211.

<sup>2</sup> Rot. Prim. Monasterii Sancti Ebrulfi, No. 48, given in Appendix to Vol. V of “Ordericus Vitalis,” p. 194.

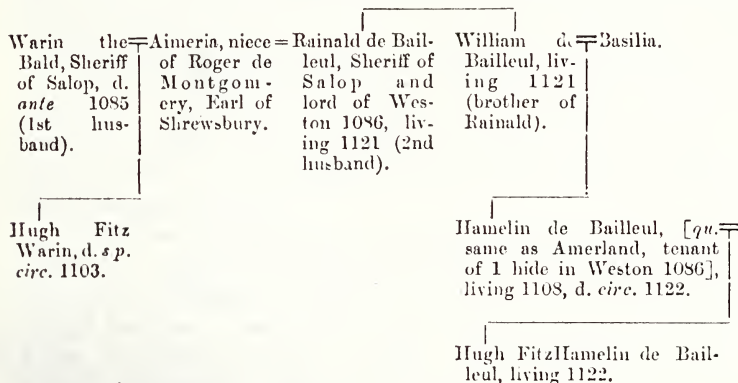
<sup>3</sup> “Chartulaire de Troarn, Bibliothèque Nationale à Paris,” is the authority cited by General Wrottesley.

<sup>4</sup> cf. Rot. Prim. Mon. S. Ebrulfi, Nos. 12 and 36, Appendix to Vol. V of “Ordericus Vitalis,” pp. 188, 191, where mention is made of a Hamelin, son of William who held the church of Damblainville of Richard son of Torouf.





Bailleul; but it is probable that they were then held under him by tenants-in-fee who had been enfeoffed by Rainald. "The death of Ameria, at whatever period (if without issue by Rainald), would, according to the well-known custom of England, have terminated all his [Rainald's] pretensions in her right. Nevertheless he may have been continued in office [as Sheriff] either by the Norman Earl or the King, for a period and during pleasure, if Hugh the son of Warin had been still in minority at his mother's death."<sup>1</sup> Hugh's "line, however, must have expired with his life";<sup>2</sup> this event Mr. Eyton believes to have taken place very shortly after 1102-3 and without issue;<sup>3</sup> and failing all other descendants of Aimeria, the shrievalty and its attached barony will have reverted to the Crown.



The only authoritative document which touches the question of the succession of the honour of Warin, Rainald, or Hugh, is thus given by Dugdale: "*Alanus filius Flaald, qui honorem viccomitis Warini post filium ejus suscepit.*"<sup>4</sup>

From these words has arisen the unwarranted statement that Alan Fitz Flaald acquired his Shropshire fief by marrying a supposed daughter and eventual heir of Warin. This has been sufficiently confuted by Mr. Eyton, whose conviction is that Alan Fitz Flaald received it by a new investiture, and by grant of

<sup>1</sup> "Houses of FitzAlan and Stuart," p. 10, note.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10.

<sup>3</sup> "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. VII, p. 210.

<sup>4</sup> Mon. Angl., Vol. III, p. 519, col. a. This document is a narrative of their endowment, drawn up by the monks of Shrewsbury, and confirmed by King Stephen soon after his accession.





Henry I, and that he so received it sometime during the first 10 years of Henry's reign, but under no claim whatever of hereditary right or succession. It was the well-known policy of Henry I, in order to strengthen his hold on the English sceptre, to create a new aristocracy, unconnected with that older one with which Domesday acquaints us; and of the strangers or foreigners so preferred this Alan, son of Flaald, was one of the greatest. This "honour of the Sheriff," which he received, lay chiefly in Shropshire, but it involved lands in Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Sussex, viz., all those which Rainald de Bailleul had held in these counties under King or Earl at Domesday.

Alan Fitz Flaald is shown by Mr. Eyton to be the progenitor not only of the great English house of Fitzalan but also of the Scottish Royal House of Stuart. For a full account of this noble family readers are referred to the "Antiquities of Shropshire."<sup>1</sup>

Alan Fitz Flaald thus became the *chief* Lord of Weston and Newton, but he does not appear to have held any lands in demesne at either. Rainald de Bailleul probably enfeoffed one or more tenants in fee, very likely relatives of his own, before he gave up his English seignory.

In Weston Amerland held, as already mentioned, one hide of Rainald in 1085-6, and it may be that he was also the person afterwards enfeoffed by Rainald of the rest of the lands there: at any rate, the whole of this manor seems to have been in the hands of a single tenant in 1166. If Amerland be the same person as Hamelin de Bailleul the nephew of Rainald, who occurs as a grantor to the Abbeys of St. Evroult and Troarn, it is probable that he was the ancestor of the future lords of Weston, but if so, most likely through a female heir, who may have succeeded on the death of Hamelin's son Hugh.

It seems to have been the opinion of Erdeswick that the family was descended from Rainald, the Domesday lord, though in speaking of Weston he says no more than that "from him it descended to or was received by one Hugo de Weston," etc. Mr. Harwood, his editor, inserts a pedigree, in which the descent is traced from Rainald himself to a son Hugo de Balgiolle, and from this Hugo de Balgiolle to Hamo de Weston, the descent in the latter case being indicated by a dotted line. This pedigree (or rather the earlier part of it) appears to have been taken from a

<sup>1</sup> "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. VII, pp. 211-281.



MS. pedigree drawn up for Richard Weston, Earl of Portland, in 1632 by William Segar, Garter King, and based on the researches of Henry Lily, Rouge Rose. The original of Segar's pedigree is in a MS. volume now at the British Museum, where it is numbered Additional MS. 18667.<sup>1</sup> It is a parchment volume, the binding of which is covered with blue velvet and ornamented with elaborately chased metal clasps and the Weston eagle, on the front as a crest, and on the back as arms, in each case enclosed within a garter and surmounted by an Earl's coronet. On the title page is the following inscription:—“*Westonorum (ab antiquo loco qui dicebatur Weston subtus Lazers in agro Staffordiensi denominatorum) antiquissima et equestris familie Genealogia et Prosapia, e qua (regnante Henrico secundo Anglorum Rege) floruit vir perillustis HAMO DE WESTON miles.*”

*A quo illustris Dominus Richardus Comes Portlandic Baro Weston de Neyland: Summus Anglie Thesaurarius, Insule Vectis prefectus, Provinciae Southamptonic Locum-tenens, Regie Maiestati a sanctioribus [sic] Conciliis, Georgiani ordinis Eques auratus, originem traxit.<sup>2</sup> Omnia ex publicis Regni archiuis et privatis eiusdem familie Archetypis, Ecclesiis, Monumentis, Historiis Monasteriorum registris, et rotulis armorum vetustissimis, aliisque reverenda antiquitatis, et indubitata veritatis rebus maximo labore ac fide oculata depromuntur; et ad perpetuam rei memoriam seriatim hoc ordine describi curantur A<sup>o</sup> incarnationis Dominica M. DC. XXXIJ.*

*Gulielmus Segar Garterus Principalis Rex Armorū Anglicorum  
ex industria et labore Hen. Lily Rouge-Rose.”*

The first 33 folios are occupied with the pedigree, which is illustrated with coloured shields of arms: the rest of the volume contains copies of or extracts from various records and deeds, most of the latter being taken from the originals then at Weston. At the end of the volume after folio 125 is appended the following authentication by Segar:—“*In quorū omnium prædictorum fide et*

<sup>1</sup> It was purchased by the trustees of the British Museum from the late Earl of Denbigh on 10 May 1851. The 2nd Earl of Denbigh, from whose brother the present Earl is descended, married Lady Anne Weston, daughter of Richard Weston, Earl of Portland.

<sup>2</sup> The heading of the pedigree given by the editor of Erdeswick is substantially the same, but additional words are introduced in the middle after the words “*originem traxit,*” mentioning other descendants of Hamo de Weston besides Richard Earl of Portland.



*testimonio Ipse præfat<sup>o</sup> Garterus Principalis Rex Armorum Angli-  
corum Westonorū Genealogiam et prosapiam prædictam vidi ponderavi  
et comparavi una cum armis et eiusdem familie Cristis, chartis,  
primigenis, Sigillisq; eidem adiunctis, quorum hæc in Codice hoc  
vera sunt exemplaria, et Genealogiam Prosapiamq; prædictam cum  
omni parte et eiusdem particula verissimum esse et authenticam  
rite comperi. Quod quidem me præfatum Garterū Officii mei virtute  
sub magno Angliæ Sigillo idem exemplificare approbare et confirmare  
efficit. In cuius rei testimonio nomen meum subscripsi, et officii mei  
Sigillum eidem affixi. Dat vicessimo quinto Novembris, Anno Re<sup>gni</sup>  
Regis Caroli Dei gratia Magnæ Britannia Franciæ Hiberniæ Nono.<sup>1</sup>*

*Gulielmus Segar Garterus Eques Auratus  
Principalis Rex Armorū Anglicorū.*

Notwithstanding this somewhat presumptuous claim to a superlative degree of accuracy, later research has shown that the pedigree thus authenticated by Segar cannot be relied on implicitly. The pedigree begins with "*Rainaldus de Baliole vel Bagiole Dns de Weston Berton Broton et de Newton in com. Stafford a<sup>o</sup>. Dni 1086*" and "*Aimeria uxor eius, neptis Rogeri de Montgomery Comitæ Salopie a<sup>o</sup>. 1082.*" Their son is called "*Hugo de Bagiole tpe Hen. p<sup>mi</sup>.*" who is made the father of "*Ranulphus filius Hugonis de Bagiole tpe Stephani Regis.*" Here there seems to be a break in the descent, the next folio beginning with "*Hamo de Weston, Dns. de Weston, Blumenhull [sic], et de Newton, miles, tpe H. 2 et a<sup>o</sup>. 11 Regis Joh<sup>is</sup>*" without any line connecting it with the descents on the preceding folio, and apparently as a separate and independent stock. From the subsequent part of the volume, where the extracts from the records, etc., are given, it appears that the basis of authority for this early Baliole pedigree is not only extremely meagre but absolutely incorrect. There seems to be no authority whatever for the descent from Rainald to a son Hugh, unless it be a passage from a MS. book then at Chillington in the possession of Mr. Walter Giffard: "*Weston subtus Lysard in com. Staff: tempore Conquestoris fuit possessio Rainaldi de Balgiole, non ita multo post descendebat ad Hugonem de Weston,*"<sup>2</sup> a passage which in all probability refers to a Hugo de Weston of a later generation. The only authority cited for the next step in the pedigree is a fine levied 41 Hen. III (1257) between Hugo de Weston and Nicholas Prior

<sup>1</sup> i.e. 25 November 1633.

<sup>2</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 37.





of St. Thomas the Martyr near Stafford, in which reference is made to land in Newton "*quod Ranulphus fil' Hugonis de Bagiole aliquando tenuit.*"<sup>1</sup> But the words "de Bagiole" are an interpolation not to be found in the original,<sup>2</sup> and moreover this Ranulf son of Hugh was apparently only a villein tenant holding half a virgatē of land in Newton. Finally, the only authority given for the descent (if descent be intended) from Ranulf to Hamo de Weston is a reference to the *Liber Rubens de Scaccario*, or Red Book of the Exchequer, "*ubi in charta Witi filii Alani de Salopseire et de pertinentiis Hamo filius Rad'i* is said to hold of him one knight's fee."<sup>3</sup> This however is a misquotation. In the *Liber Rubens* the name of Hamo filius Radulfi does occur, but it is as a joint tenant with Eugeran de Wolvrichestone of one knight's fee, and this is one of the two knight's fees which Mr. Eyton, in his Notes on the Staffordshire Fief of Fitzalan in the *Liber Niger*, says were certainly in Warwickshire.<sup>4</sup> The then (1166) tenant of the Weston fee, whose name is given in both the *Liber Niger* and the *Liber Rubens*, was, as we shall presently see, not Hamo but Robert Fitz Ralph.<sup>5</sup>

The only other ground for supposing that the Westons were descended from the Bailleuls is the undoubted fact, that the two manors of Weston and Newton, which at the time of Domesday were held by Rainald de Bailleul, were a century later both in the possession of Hamo de Weston. But, as we have seen, Rainald de Bailleul held as feudal lord under the Crown, with a tenant under him as regards one-fourth part of Weston, whereas Hamo de Weston held both manors as tenant under the new feudal lords the Fitzalans.

However, whether Segar intended to suggest that Hamo de Weston was thus directly descended in the male line from Rainald de Bailleul or not, we have sufficient evidence to show that this was almost certainly not the fact. The connection between the two manors of Weston and Newton has already been referred to, and Hamo de Weston and his immediate predecessor were unquestionably tenants or mesne lords, under the Fitzalans, of both. Hamo was the first who assumed the local name, and he

<sup>1</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 50.

<sup>2</sup> See Fine given in "Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 1, p. 249.

<sup>3</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 38.

<sup>4</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. I, p. 213.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 214.





sometimes occurs also as Hamo de Newton,<sup>1</sup> which seems to imply that he had also a capital mansion there. His Christian name, which is the same name as Hamelin, taken in conjunction with his tenure of the manor of Weston, is suggestive of a descent from Hamelin, or Amerland, the Domesday tenant of one hide at Weston. But whether this be so or not, the connection between Weston and Newton enables us to trace back the descent with strong probability through Robert Fitz Ralph, the tenant of Weston in 1166, to one Ralph Fitz Urnoi living in the time of Henry I and undoubted tenant of Newton.<sup>2</sup>

It may be that it was this Urnoi, the father of Ralph, who was enfeoffed by Rainald de Bailleul of Newton and those parts of Weston which Rainald himself held in demesne in 1085-6, in which case the remaining hide at Weston, then held by Amerland, may perhaps have been acquired by Ralph Fitz Urnoi in marriage with the eventual heiress of Amerland. Or it may be that Amerland was the tenant eventually enfeoffed by Rainald of the whole of both manors, and that after his death and the failure of his issue male they passed to Ralph Fitz Urnoi as his heir.

However this may be, we may consider RALPH FITZ URNOI to have been the first direct ancestor of the Weston family in the male line of whom anything certain is known. He was witness to a deed of R. Bishop of Coventry to Richard de Somerford, which is placed by General Wrottesley between the years 1120 and 1126<sup>3</sup>; and he gave the tithes of Newton to Burton Monastery.<sup>4</sup>

ROBERT FITZ RALPH is recorded in the *Liber Niger* to have held a knight's fee of William Fitzalan,<sup>5</sup> and it is well established that the date of the returns to the writs, from which this book was compiled, is 1166.<sup>6</sup> That this fee included the manor of Weston is shown by the Pipe Roll of the following year, 13 Hen.

<sup>1</sup> In Harl. MS. 506, fo. 267, there is a deed in which he so appears as a witness to a gift of Ralph de Mutton to Simon Bagot in Bromley (*i.e.* Bagot's Bromley).

<sup>2</sup> Urnoi is an old Scandinavian name, which was in use among the Normans at the time of the Conquest. It was latinized as *Erneisius*, and therefore is often called Erneis. A Robert Fitz Erneis was killed at Hastings, and the family of Fitz Erneis was of baronial rank in Normandy (*ex inf.* Maj.-Gen. the Hon. G. Wrottesley).

<sup>3</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. III, Part 1, p. 178.

<sup>4</sup> Burton Chartulary, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. V, Part 1, pp. 20, 27, 32.

<sup>5</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. I, p. 214.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 145, 146.



11 (1167), when Robert Fitz Ralph was amerced for a forest trespass, and where "Westona" is specifically mentioned as his holding.<sup>1</sup>

The immediate successor of Robert Fitz Ralph seems to have been HAMO DE WESTON, who was probably his son, though the name of Hamo's father is nowhere mentioned and he is himself always described by the local name. Hamo de Weston was amerced for a forest trespass in 23 Hen. II (1176-7) and again in 34 Hen. II (1187-8).<sup>2</sup> He occurs as a knight in 1 John (1199), when he was the first of four knights summoned to elect a jury at Lichfield, as he was again at Lincoln for a Stafford assize in 1201.<sup>3</sup> He served on the jury at several Lichfield assizes at Michaelmas 5 John (1203),<sup>4</sup> as also in January 8 John (1207).<sup>5</sup> He was the first of four knights summoned, with Mansel de Pateshull, Nicholas de Bureston, and Pagan de Parles, to nominate a jury for an assize to be taken in Easter term 11 John (1210).<sup>6</sup> At the forest assizes of March 1209 Hamo de Weston and John Bagot (lord of Blynhill) were indicted for receiving marksmen (*bersatores*) and hounds at Weston and Blynhill; but the result of this indictment does not appear.<sup>7</sup>

Hamo de Weston was again one of the knights summoned to elect a jury in 14 John (1212).<sup>8</sup> He was dead in October 16 John (1214), when John de Weston was impleaded by Agnes, late wife of Hamo de Weston, in a suit concerning dower.<sup>9</sup>

By a deed without date, preserved among the deeds of Edward Mytton of Weston Esq. in 1631,<sup>10</sup> Hamo de Weston confirmed a grant of land which Matilda, the daughter of Wlñert, made to her brother William for one bovate [*pro uno bove*] which William gave to him [the said Hamo], namely, the half virgate of land which Matilda the daughter of Wlfrik de Bosco held, the assart beyond

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. I, p. 47.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 89, 137, 138. This was probably for an unlicensed alienation of assart or other land which was within the jurisdiction of the forest, though it may have been lawfully in Hamo de Weston's individual occupation.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. III, Part 1, pp. 49, 51, 72.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 104 *et seq.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 138, 139.

<sup>6</sup> Assize Roll, Sect. 14, *ex inf.* the late Rev. R. Eyton; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 38.

<sup>7</sup> "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. II, p. 186, from *Placita Forestæ*, Salop, No. 2, m. 1.

<sup>8</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. III, Part 1, p. 158.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 163.

<sup>10</sup> It is so stated in Add. MS. 18667, fo. 39, at the British Museum and in the Chetwynd MS. at Blithfield. In Harl. MS. 5816 it is placed among the deeds of Richard Weston of Rugeley, but this MS. is in many respects inaccurate and cannot be implicitly relied on.



Marleebroh which the same William assarted, one acre in Berecroth Re, one acre in Culurecroth, and a certain field near the field of Alan the forester in Brademor, to hold of Matilda and her heirs at an annual rent of half a mark for all service except the King's foreign service, etc., with all their liberties and free commons anywhere within the fee of Weston and without, etc.; to which are witnesses Alexander, Chaplain of Weston, Herbert, Chaplain of Blumēhul (Blynhill), *Hamo de Weston*, John Bagotd, Alexander Mustrell, Henry de Gaywode, John Francies, William de Kave<sup>s</sup>walle, and many others.<sup>1</sup>

In Weston Church there are certain monumental inscriptions, of which the earliest runs thus: "Sir Hamo de Weston, Knight of the Order of Templars, father of Robert and Osbert, grandfather to John, great grandfather to Sir Hugh, Knight, departed this life about the year melxxxvij."

These monuments are unfortunately of no great authority, as they were only put up by Dame Elizabeth Wilbraham when she restored the church about the close of the 17th century. The descent is similarly given in the pedigree drawn up by Segar and Lily in 1632, from which the names and dates given in the monuments were probably taken. The date of Sir Hamo's death in the monument is certainly wrong; as he was living in June 1212. Robert de Weston (who had lands at Beiterton) was no doubt a younger son, but it is more probable that Osbert, if not of an earlier generation, was Sir Hamo's eldest son and died before his father.<sup>2</sup> The only notice we meet with of him is in 1199, when he occurs in the Assize Roll in connection with Robert the Turner, who was suspected of killing Osbert the Miller and was staying within the titling of Osbert de Weston.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. Sb.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 39. The seal on this deed seems to have been the Weston eagle. The Hamo de Weston who occurs as a witness had lands in Weston given to him by Sir Hamo; and he may possibly have been the father of that Matilda, daughter of Hamo, who afterwards brought lands in Weston in frank marriage to Hugh de Weston, as will be shown hereafter. He was probably a younger son of Sir Hamo de Weston.

<sup>2</sup> The references to "*Hugo de Weston filius Osberti et Margeria uxor eius*" and to "*Johannes de Weston filius Osberti*," which are given in Harl. MS. 5816 and Add. MS. 18667, fo. 44b., as extracts from "*Claus. Fin. anno 44 Henr. tertij*," are no true references. In the original Fine Roll of 44 Hen. III, m. 1, it is simply *Hugo filius Osberti*, etc., without any mention of *Weston*, and there is no mention at all of John Fitz Osbert (*ex inf.* Maj.-Gen. the Hon. G. Wrottesley).

<sup>3</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. III, Part 1, pp. 20, 39, 63.





JOHN DE WESTON succeeded Sir Hamo, and was in possession in October 1214, when he was impleaded by Agnes, the widow of Sir Hamo, for dower.<sup>1</sup> He was probably the son of Sir Hamo, and, as he is referred to in one deed as *Magister* John de Weston,<sup>2</sup> it is not unlikely that he was originally a younger son.

In a Blithfield deed, of the time of King John, John de Weston and Robert his brother occur with Hamo de Weston as witnesses. In this deed William, son of Almeric, takes the homage of Henry, son of John de Blithfield, and his relief for the vill of Blithfield which John, his father, held of Almeric, the father of William, and of William himself. It is witnessed by *Hamo de Weston*, Walter de Stivinton, Robert his brother, Hugh Bagot and William his brother, Jordan de Knitelee and his brother Roger, Robert Citarista, Richard de Ambrinton and Richard his son, *John de Weston* and *Robert* his brother, Geoffrey de Bolde, and Robert de Berlei.<sup>3</sup>

John de Weston was dead on 3 Nov. 12 Hen. III (1227), when a fine was levied in which Hugh, son of John, acknowledges a virgate of land in Weston to be the right of the Prior of St. Thomas of Stafford, to be held of Hugh for 6*d.* annually; and this probably marks the date of his succession.<sup>4</sup> But John de Weston had at least one other son besides Hugh. There was certainly a son John, who occurs as a grantee—from his brother Hugh de Weston—of certain lands in Newton; in this grant, which is without date, he is called John de Newton.<sup>5</sup> Robert de Newton may have been another son, and it is not improbable that Henry son of John de Weston and Nicholas and William his brothers, living in 1272, were also his sons.<sup>6</sup> John de Newton the

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. III, Part 1, p. 163.

<sup>2</sup> *post*, p. 18.

<sup>3</sup> *Ex inf.* Maj.-Gen. the Hon. G. Wrottesley. If Lord Bagot is correct in stating ("Mem. of the Bagot Family," p. 11, *note*) that Henry Fitz John de Blithfield was a benefactor to St. Thomas's Priory in the time of Richard I, this deed must have passed either in that king's reign, or very early in that of John.

<sup>4</sup> Staff. Assize Roll, 12 Hen. III, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 1, p. 55.

<sup>5</sup> "Mem. of the Bagot Family," p. 14, where the descendants of this John de Newton are given. These generations have been incorporated in the pedigree of the Westons inserted in the present work.

<sup>6</sup> See "Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 1, p. 258. The Add. MS. 18667, fo. 59b., and Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 26b., give the following extract from Fines, anno 56 Hen. III:—*Inter Henricum filium Johis de Weston querentem et Willielmum de Weston clericum fratrem suum impediendum de uno messuagio dimid. virgat. et sex acris terre dimid. acr. prati cum pertinentiis in Walton [qu. Wau'tone.] Willms de Weston clericus habet terram predictam pro termino vite, et si predictus Henricus obiit sine hered.*





younger may perhaps have been the same with *Magister* John de Weston who occurs in the following deed: "In the year of grace 1257, at the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, this convention was made between *Magister* John de Weston of one part and Henry, son of Aylrich de Ketilston, of the other, (viz.) that the aforesaid *Magister* John delivered etc. three selions with their appurtenances for one acre in the territory of Marcanstan, etc.; to which are witnesses William le Burgilon of Weston, etc."<sup>1</sup> Perhaps this last John de Weston may have been identical with the seneschal to Eleanor, wife of Prince Edward (afterwards King Edward I), in 1264,<sup>2</sup> and also with the John de Weston, who in 1270 having taken the cross with the King himself, Prince Edward his eldest son, and others (including Robert de Neuton), was declared to be under the King's protection and defence for himself and his lands, when he should go across the seas to the Holy Land.<sup>3</sup> There was at this time another family in Staffordshire bearing the name of de Weston, from Weston Jones in the parish of Norbury; but from the fact of John de Weston and Robert de Neuton having taken the cross together the natural inference is that they were of the family of Weston-under-Lizard. It may have been this Robert de Newton who, as Robert son of John de Weston, gives half a mark for an assize in the county of Stafford in 56 Hen. III (1271-2).<sup>4</sup>

It has been shown that HUGH DE WESTON, SON OF JOHN, was in possession in 12 Hen. III (1227).<sup>5</sup> In 19 Hen. III (1234-5) Hugh de Weston and Henry de Mere, detained in prison at Stafford for the death of William son of John Gilles, are to be released on finding sufficient security, as it appeared on inquisition that they had been accused out of hatred and malice (*odio et atia*).<sup>6</sup> Another copy of the writ describes them as Hugh de Weston and *Magister* Henry de Weston.<sup>7</sup>

*de corpore suo procreato predicta terr' cum pertinentiis integre remanebit Nicho fratri ejusdem Henrici imperpetuum.* The words "*fratrem suum*" do not however occur in the original fine.

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 30b. Add. MS. 18667, fo. 49 (from the evidences of Master Walter Giffard of Chillington)—Seal, the Weston eagle surrounded by the legend SIGILLVM IOHANIS DE WESTON.

<sup>2</sup> Rymer's *Fœdera*, Record Ed., Vol. I, p. 443.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 483.

<sup>4</sup> Fine Roll, 56 Hen. III, *ex inf.* Maj.-Gen. the Hon. G. Wrottesley. *cf.* "Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 1, pp. 252, 283.

<sup>5</sup> Staff. Assize Roll, 12 Hen. III, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 1, p. 55.

<sup>6</sup> Close Roll, *ex inf.* Maj.-Gen. the Hon. G. Wrottesley.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*



In 20 Hen. III (1235-6) the Sheriff of Shropshire and Staffordshire was ordered to cause a perambulation to be made between the lands of Roger la Zuch in Tong and the lands of Hugh de Weston in Weston.<sup>1</sup> In the Feodary of 1240 Hugh de Weston is stated to hold a knight's fee in Neuton and Weston of the barony of J. FitzAlan.<sup>2</sup>

In 38 Hen. III (1253-4) Richard de Draycote was removed from the office of escheator of the county of Stafford and Hugh de Weston substituted for him; and in the following year Hugh de Weston was replaced by Nicholas Meverel.<sup>3</sup>

In the Staffordshire Hundred Roll for this last year, 39 Hen. III (1254-5), printed by the Record Commission, Sir Hugh de Weston is one of the twelve jurors for the hundred of Cuttlestone, together with Bertram de Burgo, Peter Giffard, Robert de Wystem, Robert de Esyngton, Ivo de Wolaston, Michael de Morton, Richard de Hintes, Robert de Eyton, William Serjeant of Penkridge, William de Burgo, and Alan de More.<sup>4</sup>

At the inquisitions held at that time before the Justices Itinerant for the county of Stafford, who probably had a special commission for the purpose, namely on 5 October 1254, it was returned that Hugh was lord of Weston-under-Brewod, which he held of the barony of Oswestry<sup>5</sup> for one knight's fee. There were 3 hides geldable, and it paid 3s. to the Sheriff's aid, 3s. to the view of frank-pledge, and 12*d.* to the hundred. The jurors also said that Thomas the chaplain<sup>6</sup> of Blemenhul [Blymhill] held half a virgate of land in Weston-under-Brewode which was geldable, and that he was accustomed to attend with that vill at the Sheriff's tourr and before the Justices. They also said that William, the Rector of the Church of Weston-under-Brewod, had impleaded Sir Hugh, lord of that vill, for common in his wood which touched his free tenement in the chapter of Lapley (*caplo de Lappoley*). The

<sup>1</sup> Close Roll, *ex inf.* Maj.-Gen. the Hon. G. Wrottesley.

<sup>2</sup> Testa de Nevill, p. 47; *cf.* pp. 49, 50.

<sup>3</sup> Close Roll, 38 and 39 Hen. III, *ex inf.* Maj.-Gen. the Hon. G. Wrottesley.

<sup>4</sup> In this Hundred Roll, Esyngton and Hintes among the jurors are erroneously given as Elyngton and Hincil; Rot. Hund., Vol. II, p. 114.

<sup>5</sup> *sc.* John FitzAlan, feudal lord of Clun and Oswestry, who succeeded to the Castle and Honour of Arundel in 1234 on the partition of the estates of Hugh d'Albini, Earl of Arundel, between his coheirs. It was not until several years later that the FitzAlans assumed the title of, or more probably were created, Earls of Arundel (see Complete Peerage by G. E. C., *sub nom.* Arundel).

<sup>6</sup> This would be Thomas Personessone (see "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, p. 43).



jurors also stated that Hugh de Weston and Robert de Esyngton verderers [of the forest of Cammock] sold a windfall (*cablicium*) in the haye of Geddesley [Teddesley] to the value of 10s. by the King's orders in the 38th year of Hen. III (1253-4). And they said with respect to the above mentioned windfall that the same verderers sold nine oaks prostrated by the wind and six cartloads of branches prostrated for bote (*p bota*) for 10s., as had been already stated, but they were unable to give the value of each oak because they were sold with the branches in gross.<sup>1</sup>

By deed without date, Hugh *filius magistri Johannis de Weston* gives to God and the monks of St. Mary and St. Beadde of Bildewas common of pasture in the territory of Weston everywhere towards the north by these boundaries, that is to say, from White sich to the little watercourse (*ducellom*) of Blumenhulle and so going down between the arable land of Behterton and the heath (*brueram*) which is called Bradenham [and] between (*inter*) the arable land of Weston . . . as far as Watelinge-stret, etc.; to which are witnesses Richard de Lechthō, William de Wilbrieton, Richard de Onne, Hamo de Morthon, Richard de Grenehull, Michael de Morthon, Robert de Behterton, John de Brunton, and others.<sup>2</sup>

About the same time a convention was made between Sir Hugh de Weston of the one part and Alice, formerly the wife of Hamo de Berturton, of the other part, by which the said Hugh concedes to the said Alice two parts of one messuage in the vill of Weston, and of all the lands and tenements of which the aforesaid Hamo, formerly her husband, died seised in Weston and Berturton, till the full age of Thomas, the son and heir of the aforesaid Hamo, in exchange for her dower, namely of one messuage and one virgate of land in the vill of Berturton which the aforesaid Hugh bought of the aforesaid Hamo her husband, to hold of the said Hugh and his heirs, etc.; witnessed by Robert Attevode of Weston, William le Freman, Roger le Bere, John Tirri, William Tirri of the same, and many others.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Hund., Vol. II, p. 115.

Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 8, and Add. MS. 18667, fo. 45. Seal of red wax with legend SIGILLÆ HUGONIS DE WESTONA round the Weston eagle. According to the Harl. MS. this deed is said to be taken from the evidences of Richard Weston, of Rugeley co. Stafford, Esq., but it is clear from the Add. MS. that this is a mistake, and that the original was in fact at Weston. A similar mistake occurs in the Harl. MS. with regard to several other deeds.

<sup>3</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 8; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 41 (from original at Weston).





By another deed Hugh, son of John de Weston, gave to William, son of Hamo de Weston, half a virgate of land with the appurtenances in the vill of Weston, for his homage and service and 12s. sterling, namely that half virgate which the father of William held of the donor's father, together with a moor lying near the grove called Birdes, etc., to hold of the donor and his heirs in fee, etc.; witnessed by Richard de Duna (de Omne), Ralph de Coven, James de Morton, Robert de Berterton, John de Bruminton, William de Brumnton, and many others.<sup>1</sup>

If this William, son of Hamo de Weston, was the son of Hamo de Weston de Berterton, it is probable that both he and Thomas, the son and heir of Hamo, died without issue, and that Robert, their brother, succeeded to the inheritance; for Robert de Berterton, son of Hamo de Weston, by deed without date gave to Margery his daughter and her issue half a virgate of land in the vill of Berterton, which Thomas on the Green (*super viridum*) formerly held, except two acres extending to the garden of Thomas the chaplain, which the aforesaid Hamo, his father, gave to the said Thomas the chaplain in exchange for other two acres. If Margery should die without issue the said land to remain to Roger, her younger brother, and his heirs; witnessed by Sir H. de Weston, W. parson of Weston, William de Ippestanes, Ch: [*qu. Th:*] chaplain of Blumenhul, R. de Petleshul, John Bagot of Brunton, W. Wardecots, W. Franceis, and many others.<sup>2</sup>

It is probable that Robert de Berterton was succeeded by his son James, for James de Bertertone, son of Robert of the same, by deed without date sold to Sir Hugh de Weston, knight, the homage and service of Thomas de Blumenhull in Bertertone, the son of Thomas formerly Rector of Blumenhull; witnessed by Roger de Pichford, Richard de Pycheford, Robert de Brumtone, Henry of the Wood (*de Bosco*) of Weston, Roger le Bere, Richard of the Green (*de Virido*) of Berterton, Simon de Birterton, and many others.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 8b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 45b. (from original at Weston) Seal of yellow wax, with Weston eagle and circumscription as before.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 9; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 40 (from deed at Weston). Seal, a fleur de lys with the legend SIGILL ROBERTI DE WESTVN.

<sup>3</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 9b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 46 (from original at Weston). There is another grant (*ibid.*, fo. 48b.) by James de Bertertone to Sir Hugh de Weston, knight, of 3 acres of land in Ilesponne, lying between the highway which leads towards Loggelee on one side and the land which Thomas de Blemehull holds of the aforesaid Hugh on the other side. Amongst the witnesses is Thomas de Blumehull, clerk.





But Roger, the younger son of Robert de Beiterton, was also living later, for by deed without date Sir Hugh de Weston, son of Sir Hugh *de eadem*, gives and confirms to Roger, son of Robert de Betterton, son of Hamo de Weston, for his homage and service one half virgate of land in the vill of Weston, with a messuage and croft, namely that which Dolfin de Weston, and afterwards William the Beadle of Weston (*Bedellus de eadem*), some time held of the lords of Weston, besides two acres of land which Sir Hugh de Weston, his father, gave to the said Robert de Betterton in his wood near Marleye, by the boundaries there made, viz. from his assart as far as Spownewey; witnessed by Roger de Pycheford, Richard de Pycheford, Robert Bagot of Brunton, Roger Bagot of the same, William le Freman of Weston, Henry de Bosco of Weston, and many others; sealed with the Weston eagle displayed regardant and bearing the legend *Sigillum Dni Hugonis Fil Hugonis de Weston*.<sup>1</sup>

These last two deeds are of the time of the second Sir Hugh de Weston, of whom more hereafter.

In July 40 Hen. III (1256) Hugh de Weston is foreman of a jury of verderers and foresters of the King's Forest of Cannock and other freemen of the county, summoned to ascertain what lands, tenements, rents, etc., pertain to the Bailiwick which Hugh de Loges held in the same forest.<sup>2</sup>

In 41 Hen. III (1256-7) Hugh de Weston gives half a mark of gold to have an assize, and the Sheriff of Staffordshire is commanded to take his security.<sup>3</sup>

In the same year (1257) Hugh, lord of Weston, gave to the Prior and Canons of St. Thomas the Martyr near Stafford a virgate and a quarter of land, two messuages, with buildings, crofts, etc., belonging to them, and three places of land with the appurtenances, in Neuton, namely, that messuage and croft and half virgate of land which Ranulph, son of Hugh, at one time held, and a messuage and a croft and that half virgate of land which Edric Russell at one time held, and that fourth part of a virgate which Robert Kempe at one time held, and one place of land which was called Longeleg' from the easement (*hesia*) of John de Neuthon in longitude by the road or to the wood of James de Bliethefeld, etc., and another place of meadow and waste of Challusbullofad, etc., and a third place in

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 12b. ; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 50b. (from original at Weston).

<sup>2</sup> Inq., 40 Hen. III, No. 37.

<sup>3</sup> Fine Roll, 41 Hen. III, m. 4.



his wood of the Hurst, etc., as also common of pasture for 400 sheep, 60 beasts, and 60 swine, in his wood called the Hurst at Newton (except his woods called Hamptonwood and le Mulnemer and a moor called Rowmore), in exchange for all the lands and tenements which the said Prior and his Canons had from him or any one else in the vill of Weston on the day on which this charter was made, namely on the Tuesday next before the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, 41 Hen. III (19 June 1257), including the service and homage of Henry de Bosco of Weston and his heirs for half a virgate of land which he held of the said Prior and Canons in Weston, with wards, reliefs, etc.; to which were witnesses Sir John de Acton, Philip de Poyer, Hugh de London, Thomas de Bromsulf, William de Acton, William de Ipstones, Thomas de Tresel, Robert de Hutesdon, Ralph de Hampton, Robert son of John de Admundeston, Thomas de la Lee, William, Richard, and Hugh, of the same.<sup>1</sup>

This is followed by a fine levied in the same year between Hugh de Weston, plaintiff, and the Prior and Canons of St. Thomas the Martyr, deforciant, of a virgate of land in Weston, the land taken back by Hugh de Weston on this exchange.<sup>2</sup>

An abstract of a deed which is given in another part of Mr. Parker's Chartulary of St. Thomas, from which Chartulary the above deed is taken, probably applies to the lands at Weston formerly given to the Prior and Convent of St. Thomas by Hugh de Weston and reclaimed in this exchange. The abstract is as follows: "*Ecce dono Hugonis de Weston totam terram quam habuit in lib. maritag. cum Matilda, uxore sua, filia Hamonis, in Weston. Confirmat. per Willielmum filium suum.*"<sup>3</sup>

The confirmatory grant of William, son of Hugh de Weston, which is supposed by the editor of the Chartulary to have passed about 1250, runs as follows:—

"Be it known unto all men that I William, son of Hugh de Weston the Palmer, have given and conceded, etc., to God and the Church of St. Thomas, etc., in free, pure, and perpetual alms, all my land with the appurtenances, which I had by hereditary right through Matilda my mother, daughter of Hamo, in the vill of Weston, to have and to hold, etc.; to which were witnesses Sir Robert de Caverswall, Walter de Hagnechat (Hanyate), John le Bret.

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VIII, Part 1, pp. 145, 146, and Harl. MS. 3516, fo. 10 Add. MS. 18667, fo. 53 (from original at Weston).

<sup>2</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 50; "Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 1, p. 249.

<sup>3</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VIII, Part 1, p. 194.



Richard Toly, Ralph de Cotys, Richard de Herbrechton, Henry de bosco of Weston, and many others."<sup>1</sup>

The following grant by Robert de Berterton is also given in the same Chartulary of lands which were probably included in the above-mentioned exchange between Hugh de Weston and the Prior:—"Be it known that I Robert de Bethertona have given, etc., to God and the Church of St. Thomas for the safety of my soul, etc., in free alms, five acres of land in the vill of Weston, four of which lie between the land which belonged to Hugh the Palmer up to the syche in the moor of Ralph, and extend in length from Hardelegesyche as far as the land of the said Robert and all the land which extends from the moor of Ralph to 'Wathlingstreet' between the marlpit of the said Robert and the land of R. de Gossich; and one acre of two selions which extends from 'Wachlingstreth' to the said acres; to have and to hold, etc.; to which are witnesses Sir John de Acton, Robert de Wyston, John de Bruntone, William le Fraunceys, William son of Hamo, Henry de Bosco, and others."<sup>2</sup>

In 43 Hen. III (1258-9) Hugh de Weston paid a fine of half a mark of gold that he should be released from sitting on an assize.<sup>3</sup> Sir Hugh was now growing old, and we do not meet with him again as acting in public. He probably died not long after this. If he was the same as Hugh de Weston "the Palmer," who married Matilda or Maud the daughter of Hamo, with whom he received certain lands in Weston in frank marriage, which he gave to the Priory of St. Thomas near Stafford in 1227, but got back from it on the exchange in 1257, he must have taken the cross in 1227, for he could not have taken part in any other crusade. But if this be so, either his wife Matilda must have been a second wife, or else her son William, son of Hugh de Weston, predeceased his father without issue, for the gift of her land to St. Thomas the Martyr was confirmed by her son William, and Sir Hugh was certainly succeeded by a son of his own name.

HUGH, SON OF SIR HUGH DE WESTON, whom we may call HUGH DE WESTON II, took the losing side in the wars of the barons in 1264-5, and accordingly his lands were forfeited to the Crown. The redemption of them was given to Thomas Corbet, of Hadley, Tasley, and King's Bromley, between whom and Hugh de Weston

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VIII, Part 1, p. 191.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Pipe Rolls (Salop), 43 Hen. III, *et. inf.* the late Rev. R. Eyton.





there was a law-suit concerning the price to be paid for them. In this suit, which was heard on 20 January 1272, Thomas Corbet stated that during the time of the disturbances Hugh was of the retinue of Ralph Basset of Drayton throughout all the depredations and burnings committed by Ralph, and that he assisted in the defence of the town of Stafford against the King at the coming of Hamo le Estraunge, the King's liege man, and he should therefore be forced to redeem his lands under the *Dictum de Kenilworth*. Hugh de Weston appeared and stated that Ralph had taken him against his will, and he had committed no damage to the King's subjects, and therefore he ought not to be made to redeem his lands. The Sheriff was ordered to summon a jury at a month from Easter, and because it was testified that the whole county of Stafford was against the King, the Sheriff of Worcestershire was ordered to summon eight knights and others of his county, and the Sheriff of Warwickshire the same number from his county, who were not against the King, in order to form a jury.<sup>1</sup>

The termination of this suit is shown in the *Coram Rege* Roll of Easter, 2 Ed. I (1274), when Hugh de Weston acknowledged that he owed Thomas Corbet 50 marks for the redemption of his lands in Weston and Newton.<sup>2</sup> But though he had to pay this heavy fine it does not appear that he ever relinquished his lands; nor does he seem to have been under supervision.

At the Trinity assizes of 56 Hen. III (1272) Hugh de Weston was one of the two electors for the Hundred of Cattlestone,<sup>3</sup> and he was one of those returned in that year both from the Hundred of Cattlestone and from that of Pirehill, in which two hundreds his lands were situated, as valets holding full knight's fees, and being of full age, who were not yet knights.<sup>4</sup>

In the Michaelmas term of the same year Hugh de Weston was sued by Henry de Pembrugge (lord of Tong) for entering his free warren at Tonge, with Hugh, son of the Parson of Weston, and Simon, son of the Chaplain of Blemynhull, and William de Ritton, and killing his hares with dogs and bows and arrows. Hugh appeared and denied the trespass. Accordingly a jury was to be

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 1, p. 185, from the *Coram Rege* Roll of 56 Hen. III, No. 167.

<sup>2</sup> *Ex inf.*: Maj.-Gen. the Hon. G. Wrottesley, who quotes from the *Coram Rege* Roll of 2 Ed. I, No. 10.

<sup>3</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 1, p. 208, from the Staff. Assize Roll of 56 Hen. III.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 210, 213, from Staff. Assize Roll of 56 Hen. III.





summoned for the morrow of the Purification. Adam de St. George of the county of Salop and John de Pendeford of the county of Stafford were bail for Hugh.<sup>1</sup>

In the Trinity Term of 1 Ed. I (1273) Constance, the widow of Iwin de Salt, sued Hugh de Weston for a mill in Neweton, which she claimed as her right against him. Hugh did not appear, and the Sheriff is ordered to take the mill into the King's hands and to summon Hugh for a month from Michaelmas.<sup>2</sup>

Perhaps he was then at Rome, for Hugh de Weston had the King's license to go to the Court of Rome in that year, "*sine clauso durante*" till Michaelmas.<sup>3</sup>

In September of 3 Ed. I (1275) he appears as a knight on a jury held in the Bishop's Hall at Lichfield concerning a claim of the Prior of Ronton to common in the Wood of Knightley; in 5 Ed. I (1276-7)<sup>4</sup> he was second juror on a Staffordshire inquisition with Robert de Knightley, Philip de Mutton, William de Mora, Roger de Pichford, Michael de Morton, and others;<sup>5</sup> and he also occurs as foreman of a jury in the following year with Robert de Knightley and others.<sup>6</sup>

In 1280, as Hugh son of Hugh de Weston, he received a charter of immunity for life from serving on assizes, or as Sheriff, coroner, escheator, etc., which he produced at the assizes taken at Stafford many years later before Magister Adam de Crokedayk and William Inge, the Justices assigned to take the same, viz. on Thursday after a month from Easter, 22 Ed. I (1294). The charter runs as follows:—

"*Edwardus, etc. Omnibus ballivis, etc. Compatientes imbecillitatem (sic) dilecti et fidelis nostri Hugonis filii Hugonis de Weston in comitatu Stafford, concessimus ei, etc., quod toto tempore vite sue habeat hanc libertatem videlicet quod non ponatur in assisis, juratis, etc., et quod non fiat vicecomes, coronator, escheator, forestarius, recrearius, agistator, regardator, aut alius ballivus noster contra voluntatem suam. In cuius rei, etc. Datum ex die Novembris, anno regni nostri octavo.*"<sup>7</sup> Notwithstanding this license however he

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VI, Part 1, p. 58, from *Coram Rege* Roll, Mich., 1 Ed. I.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 61, from Banco Roll, No. 6, Trin., 1 Ed. I.

<sup>3</sup> Pat. 1 Ed. I, m. 4.

<sup>4</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 1, p. 273, from Ronton Charters, fo. 13.

<sup>5</sup> Inq., 5 Ed. I, No. 47.

<sup>6</sup> Inq., 6 Ed. I, No. 72.

<sup>7</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VI, Part 1, p. 293.



served on several occasions, and in various capacities, between the date of his charter and that of its production in Court. His disablement was doubtless some temporary infirmity,<sup>1</sup> possibly the effect of some wound received in the wars of 1264-5, from which he recovered, but as the charter was for life he saw fit to claim his immunity in 1294, for which purpose it was produced in Court.

On Sunday, the Vigil of the Purification, 10 Ed. I (1 February 1281-2) Sir Hugh de Weston was third witness to a convention between Luke, Abbot of Lilleshall, and Michael de Morton, whereby the Abbot and his convent gave to the said Michael and his heirs all their lands in Orselowe, for which he agreed to pay them a rent of 4 marks. The other witnesses were William de Kaverswell, Adam de Brinton, and Robert de Knightleye, knights, Roger de Pychford, Roger de Brynton, Henry de Wyverston, Stephen de Wolaston, Robert de Bokenhull, and others.<sup>2</sup>

In 11 Ed. I (1282-3) Sir Hugh de Weston and Sir Philip de Mutton, knights, are joined with the Sheriff of Salop and Stafford in a commission to hold an inquisition after the death of William de Audeleye.<sup>3</sup>

In 1285 Sir Hugh de Weston obtained to him and his heirs for ever a charter of free warren in all his demesne lands at Weston, namely such lands as are not within the bounds of the King's Forest, so that no one should enter those lands to hunt or to take therein anything that pertains to warren without the license and will of the said Hugh or his heirs under the penalty of forfeiting £10 to the King; witnessed by R. Bishop of Bath and Wells, Edmund the King's brother, Edmund Earl of Cornwall, Gilbert de Clare Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, Roger le Bigod Earl of Norfolk and Marshal of England, Henry de Lacy Earl of Lincoln, John de Warren Earl of Surrey, William de Beauchamp Earl of Warwick, John de Vesey, John Giffard, and others. Dated at Westminster under the King's hand on the 12th day of May 13 Ed. I, and sealed with the great seal.<sup>4</sup>

By deed without date Sir Hugh de Weston gives and confirms to Roger le Bere of Weston certain lands and tenements which he

<sup>1</sup> The primary meaning of the word *imbecillitas* is infirmity of the body, not of the mind, though we are more accustomed to use it in the latter sense.

<sup>2</sup> *Ex inf.* the late Rev. R. Eyton, from the Lilleshall Abbey Chartulary.

<sup>3</sup> *Inq. p.m.*, 11 Ed. I, No. 31.

<sup>4</sup> Harl. MS. 5316, fo. 9b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 58 (from original at Weston).



had of the gift of his (Hugh's) ancestors, and because the number of cattle for which he was entitled to have common of pasture is not specified in the (original) grant, he concedes and by his present writing confirms for himself and his heirs to the said Roger, that he should have common of pasture in the fee of Weston for 3 cart horses (*affros*), 6 working oxen (*boves*), 4 cows with their produce of one year old, 4 young steers (*bovetos*) either male or female, 100 shearlings, or sheep of the second year (*bidentes*), 17 male porkers (*porcos*), 3 sows (*sues*), 6 geese with broods (*ancus matrices*), quit of pannage and herbage: but it should not be lawful for the said Roger or his heirs to bring in strange pigs in his name to the said Hugh's pasture or pesson, and so overburden his wood. For this concession and charter the said Roger gives to the said Hugh 20s. sterling; witnessed by Michael de Morton, Henry de Caverswelle, Richard de Pichford, Ralph de Wiverston, Roger Bagot of Brumpton, John Bagod of Little Onne, clerk, Hugh de Levedale, and others.<sup>1</sup>

By deed without date Hugh, son of Hugh, son of Philip de Felton, sells and quit claims to Sir Hugh de Weston, knight, a half virgate of land in the vill of Beyterton with all its appurtenances, namely that which the predecessors of the said Hugh, knight, gave long ago (*antiquo tempore*) to the predecessors of the said Hugh in free marriage, together with 6s. of annual rent, which the said Hugh de Weston and his predecessors have been accustomed to pay to him and his predecessors every year; in consideration for which Sir Hugh de Weston pays him 100s.: witnessed by Robert de Weston, William de Kavereswell in Stretton, Michael de Morton, Roger de Pichford, Thomas de Beyterton, clerk, and others.<sup>2</sup>

And by deed without date John FitzAlan de Fonte gives to Hugh, lord of Weston-under-Brewode, his whole assart of le Russimere, which Alan his father bought from Sir Hugh de Weston, father of the said Hugh, with all the appurtenances, in exchange for a half virgate of land with the buildings, messuages and curtilages, with the appurtenances in the vill of Beiterton, and for the crop of 5 selions at le Spomme in the fields of Weston, and for the crop of one place of land in the fields of Beeterton which is called le Bruche at the vivary formerly of Sir Ralph de Coven, and also

<sup>1</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 55b., taken from an original deed formerly preserved at Weston among the Mylton deeds. Hugh de Levedale was dead in January 1293.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 5b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 52 (from original at Weston).





for the crop of one meadow which is called Sparlee medue which Simon de Becterton held; witnessed by Bertram de Burgo, Michael de Morton, Roger de Pichitford, John de Yppestanes, Robert de Brunton, Roger Bagot de eadem, Henry de Bosco of Weston, Roger le Bere of the same, Roger de Brunton, clerk, Thomas de Blumenhul, clerk, and many others.<sup>1</sup>

At the assizes held before John de Berewick, Thomas de Normanville, William de Bereford, John de Lichegrevus, and Hugh de Cave, Justices Itinerant in the county of Stafford, on the morrow of the Epiphany, 21 Ed. I (7 January 1293), Richard, son of Hervey de Stretton, sued Hugh de Weston for 3 virgates and a half of land, 6 acres of meadow, and two parts of a mill in Stretton, of which Richard de Stretton his grandfather, whose heir he is, had been seised as of fee when he died. Hugh pleaded that he was enfeoffed conjointly with Sarra his wife, who was not named in the writ; and, as Richard did not deny this, the suit was dismissed.<sup>2</sup>

At the inquisition to prove the age of Edmund, son and heir of Nicholas Baron of Stafford, which was held at Stafford on the Thursday next after the Feast of St. Lawrence, 22 Ed. I (12 August 1294), Sir Hugh de Weston, knight, says that he knows and well remembers that the said Edmund was born on the Feast of St. Edith the Virgin next after the cyre of Sir Ralph de Hengham and his fellow Justices in the county of Salop. He also said that shortly after the birth of the said Edmund the said Nicholas came to the house of the said Hugh at Weston and informed him that he had just had a son born. Walter de Elmedon, Chaplain and Rector of the Church of Weston, who was also present as a witness to prove the age of Edmund, says that he knows it by this circumstance, that a certain Sir Richard de

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 9; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 57b. (from original at Weston).

<sup>2</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VI, Part 1, p. 226. In Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 9, and in Add. MS. 18667, fo. 47, are copies of a deed without date, by which Sir Richard de Stretton granted to Sir Hugh de Weston a certain meadow in the manor of Stretton, which was called Acres medue lying between le Lakedon and a bridge which was called Eton bridge, as it was surrounded by the river Penk, except the third part of the same meadow which Robert le Champion and Agnes de Stretton his wife held in dower of the said Agnes. And in Harl. MS. 5816, fos. 10, 23, and Add. MS. 18667, fos. 40b., 41, are two grants without date by Richard son of Richard Lord of Stretton to Sir Hugh de Weston, Kt., of certain "nativi" or villein tenants of his with their lands. All three are said to be from original deeds at Weston.



Stretton, knight, took to wife Rois, the sister of the said Nicholas Baron of Stafford, the aunt of the beforesaid Edmund, and that on the Feast of St. Edith the Virgin next before the birth of the said Edmund, she the said Rois was brought to bed of a daughter called Joan, who was 22 years of age on the Feast of St. Edith last past. He also refers to the eyre of Sir Ralph de Hengham and his fellow Justices in the county of Stafford, which took place immediately before the death of the late King (Henry III). William de Wrottesley, another witness, corroborates the evidence of Hugh de Weston as to the day and place of the said birth, and he said that certain servants of the said Baron of Stafford were journeying on the morrow of the birth of the aforesaid Edmund from Madely to Weston, and they came to the house of Hugh de Wrottesley, the father of the aforesaid William, and there related the birth of the aforesaid Edmund. By these and other witnesses it was proved that the said Edmund was born on St. Edith's Day, 25 July,<sup>1</sup> 1 Ed. I (1273). The other witnesses were Nicholas, Prior of St. Thomas's near Stafford, Sir Roger de Pyweleston, knight, Sir Henry de Cressewell, knight, Sir William Trunwyne, knight, Sir Robert de Pype, knight, Sir William de Stafford, knight, Robert le Marshall, Hugh de Chauldon, and Robert Gerveyse.<sup>2</sup>

In 26 Ed. I Hugh de Weston was among those summoned by personal writ, dated at Westminster 30 March 1298, to meet the King at York on the Feast of Pentecost (25 May), prepared with horses and arms to march against the Scots.<sup>3</sup>

Sir Hugh de Weston seems to have had some claim to lands in Bagot's Bromley, for at the assizes taken at Stafford on the Vigil of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary, 27 Ed. I (7 September 1299), there was an assize to try if John Bagod of Bromleye, Hugh his brother, and Nicholas son of Edith, had unjustly disseised Hugh de Weston of an acre of land in Cromberleye. John stated that the land was in Bromley and not in Crumberley, and as Hugh could not deny this the suit was dismissed.<sup>4</sup> Hugh de Weston renewed his claim on the Friday in the Feast of the Holy Trinity following,

<sup>1</sup> This is not the day usually given for the feast of St. Edith the Virgin.

<sup>2</sup> Inq., 22 Ed. I, No. 152. *cf.* "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VIII, Part 2, p. 145, where the evidence is given more at length, but where there are one or two inaccuracies, *e.g.* Sir Hugh is made to say that Nicholas Baron of Stafford came to the house of his (Sir Hugh's) father at Weston, and the name of the Rector of Weston is given as William de Elmedon.

<sup>3</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VIII, Part 1, p. 19.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, Part 1, p. 55.



and again at the July and Michaelmas assizes, when the jury found in favour of John Bagot.<sup>1</sup>

At the perambulation of the Forest of Cannock, made before Monsire Rogier Brabazon and others, the King's Justices, on Wednesday in the week of Pentecost, 28 Ed. I (11 June 1300), Sir Hugh de Weston, knight, was one of those summoned to be present;<sup>2</sup> as also at that of the Forest of Kinver on the 14th of June in the same year.<sup>3</sup>

This is the last public notice we have of him. He died before 25 September 33 Ed. I (1305). The writ of *diem clausit exterrimum* was issued on that day, and the inquisition held in pursuance thereof was taken at Weston on Friday before St. Luke's Day, the 15th of October following. The jurors were John Bagot, William le Taylur, Thomas de Eyton, Matthew de Congreve, Ralph de Hampton, Adam de Stafford, William de Wolaston, William de Engleton, Adam Henry of Stockton [Stretton], Robert Attewode, Richard de Brunton, and Robert de Bykeford, who say upon their oath that the aforesaid Hugh held nothing of the King *in capite* on the day of his death, but that he held the manor of Weston and the moiety of the vill of Newton of the heir of Richard FitzAlan, formerly Earl of Arundel, who is under age and in the King's custody, and who holds of the King *in capite* by the service of one knight's fee. In which said manor there is a capital messuage with a garden worth 2s. There is a dovecote worth yearly 6*d.* There are 6 score acres of arable land worth 20s. yearly; each acre is worth 2*d.* There are 3 acres of meadow worth yearly 3*s.*, each one being worth 12*d.* There is a certain wood, the profit of which is worth yearly 2*s.* There are 2 fish ponds worth yearly 5*s.* The rent of assize there of free tenants is worth yearly 13*s.* 11*d.*: viz. from Robert Attewode, who holds half a virgate of land, 8*s.*, payable at the Feasts of St. Michael and the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary by equal portions; from William le Freman, who holds half a virgate of land, 10*d.*, viz. at the Feast of St. Michael 2*d.*, and at the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary 2*d.*, and at the Feast of Easter 6*d.*; from Robert le Bere, who holds half a virgate of land, 12*d.* at the Feast of Easter; from William Bagot, who holds one nook of land, 2*s.*

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VII, Part 1, pp. 67, 68, 82, 89.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. V, Part 1, p. 176.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 179.





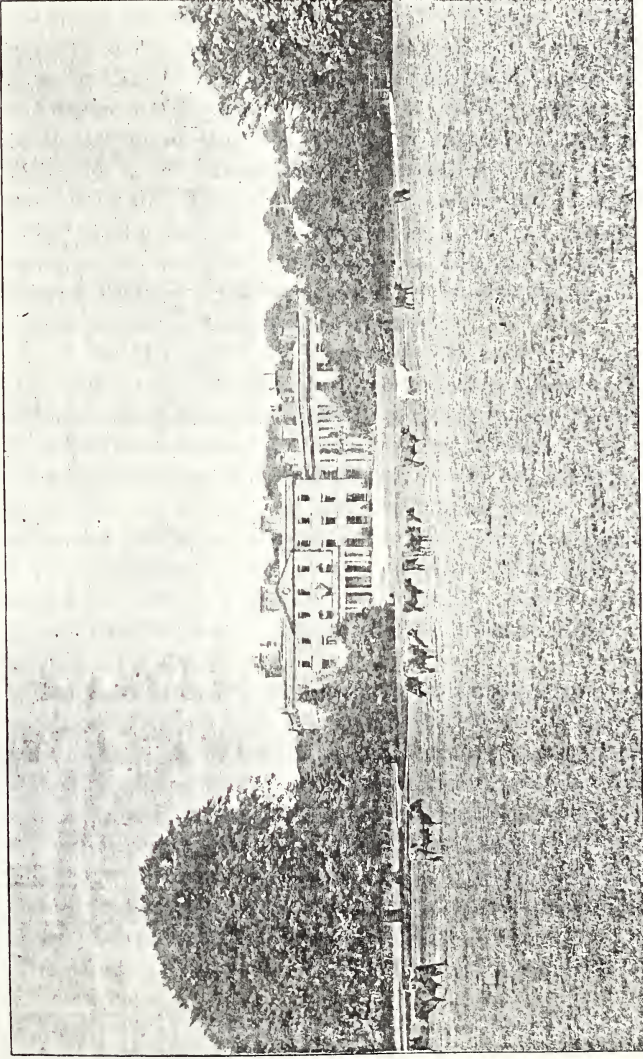
at the two terms aforesaid by equal portions; from Hugh de la Grene, who holds half a virgate of land, 2s. at the terms aforesaid equally; from Richard le Smyth, who holds 9 acres of land, 1*d.* at the Feast of Easter. And there are of rent of assize of villeins £6 16s. 8*d.*: viz. from 13 villeins, each of whom holds half a . . . of land for 8s.; and from William Hanwys, who holds one nook of land, 4s.; from William de Pendeford, who holds the like, 4s.; from Robert de Kaghlys, who holds half a virgate of land, 8s. 8*d.*; from William de Dalileye, who holds one virgate of land, 16s. There are of rent of assize of cotters 18s.: viz. from 5 cotters, each of whom holds one cottage and one toft for 2s.; and from eight cotters, each of whom holds one cottage for 12*d.*; and these rents are due at the Feast of St. Michael and at the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary in equal portions. Also they say that the aforesaid Hugh held in his demesne as of fee of the aforesaid heir of Richard FitzAlan by the same service on the day of his death in the vill of Newton the undermentioned tenements, viz. 1 messuage with a curtilage worth yearly 12*d.* And there are there 60 acres of arable land worth 10s., the value of each acre being 2*d.* And there are there two and a half acres of meadow worth yearly 2s. 6*d.*, the worth of each acre being 12*d.* There is a certain moor there, the profit of which is worth yearly 18*d.* There are there of rent of assize of freeholders 9s.: viz. from William de Newton, who holds 1 messuage and 1 croft, 2s.; from Robert de Borley, who holds 1 messuage and 10 acres of land, 3s.; from Thomas le Warde, who holds half a virgate of land, 2s.; from John Attewode and William Bagod, who hold half a virgate of land, 2s. And there are there of rent of assize of 5 villeins 35s., each of whom holds half a virgate of land for 7s. And there are there of rent of assize of 4 cotters 7s., 3 of whom hold 1 cottage and 1 croft for 2s., and the other one holds 1 messuage for 12*d.* And these rents are due at the Feast of St. Michael and at the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary by equal portions. And they say that the pleas and perquisites of the Court of Weston and Newton are worth yearly 8*d.*, [*qu.* 18*d.*] And they say that John, son of the aforesaid Hugh de Weston, is the next heir of the same Hugh, and that he was 28 years of age at the Feast of Easter last past. Sum total of the whole extent, £13 8s. 7*d.*<sup>1</sup>

Sir Hugh de Weston probably had a younger son Thomas,

<sup>1</sup> Inq. p.m., 33 Ed. I, No. 59.







Weston Hall from the East.



who in 33 Ed. 1 (1305), as Thomas son of Hugh de Weston, withdrew his plea of debt against John de Stretton, Parson of the Church of Weston near Brewode.<sup>1</sup> There was a Thomas de Weston, acolyte, who succeeded John de Stretton as Rector of Weston in November 1309,<sup>2</sup> and was apparently still Parson of Weston in 1321,<sup>3</sup> but according to the Lichfield Diocesan Register this Thomas de Weston was dead in 1328, whereas we find Thomas the son of Hugh de Weston still living in 1344 (see *post*, p. 33). If it be admissible to suppose that the Register is inaccurate in this respect, and that the admission of Stephen de Bromley to the Church of Weston in 1328 was really on the *resignation* not the *death* of Thomas de Weston, it was probably the same Thomas de Weston whom we afterwards meet with as Rector or Parochial Chaplain of Blymhill.

In 4 Ed. III (1330) Sir Thomas de Weston, Chaplain of the parish of Blemenphull (Blymhill), conceded to Hugh de Venables and Emma his wife and their heirs and assigns one chamber with all the lands and tenements, fields, and rents which he has by the gift and feoffment of the said Emma in the vill of Blemenphull and without it, to hold of the chief lords of the fee by the accustomed services; witnessed by Sir John de Ippestan, Sir John de Weston, Roger de Ouyoteshay, John de Brunton, Stephen de Stotton [Stretton], and others. Dated at Blumenhull on the Wednesday next after the Feast of St. Roman, Bishop (24 October).<sup>4</sup>

Two years later Thomas de Weston, chaplain, gives to Edith, daughter of William le Taylur of Blemenhull, all the lands, tenements, fields, rents, and services, which he had of the gift of Philip de Ippestan for the term mentioned in the deed of Philip de Ippestan, to hold of the chief lords of that fee; witnessed by Sir John de Ippestan, Sir John de Weston, Roger de Ouyoteshay, Richard son of Simon Elieth, and others. Dated at Blemenhul on the Wednesday next before the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary 6 Ed. III (18 March 1332).<sup>5</sup>

The name of Thomas de Weston does not occur in the History

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VII, Part 1, p. 140.

<sup>2</sup> Lichf. Dioc. Register, Vol. I, fo. 43.

<sup>3</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. IX, Part 1, p. 82.

<sup>4</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 65b.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, fo. 68b. These two deeds are said to be taken from the originals at Weston.



of Blymhill among the Rectors of that parish,<sup>1</sup> and it is very doubtful whether he ever was actually Rector. We know that in 7 Ed. III (1333) a dispute was pending as to the right to present to this church,<sup>2</sup> and that on 30 May 1333 a rector was collated by the Bishop, to whom the presentation had lapsed in consequence of this dispute between the patrons. There had been a previous dispute between the heirs of John Bagot of Blymhill in 1291, when the order of presentation had been agreed upon as follows: the heirs of Ipstones were to have the first turn, those of Coven the second, those of Pichford the third, and those of Bromley the fourth.<sup>3</sup> Ipstones then presented Roger de Staundon, and the next turn would belong to the heirs of Coven. Sir John de Weston had purchased two parts of the Coven turn, viz. the Hyde and the Streche shares, though the former share seems to have eventually reverted to the heirs of Hyde; the remaining part of the Coven turn, viz. the Wyverston share, had been acquired by William son of Peter de Joneston. The probability is that the death of Roger de Staundon took place in or before 1330, and that Sir John de Weston then presented Thomas de Weston, but that the owner of the Wyverston share did not concur in the appointment, which was contested by Sir John de Ipstones under a claim to the whole advowson as heir of the eldest sister notwithstanding the agreement of 1291. If the appointment of Thomas de Weston had been valid, and he had subsequently resigned, the next turn would have belonged to the heirs of Pichford, who do not appear to have put in any claim. Besides, it appears from the plea in the suit that the rectory was then vacant by the death of Roger de Staundon. The determination of the dispute is not recorded, and as already mentioned the presentation was ultimately made by the Bishop. We may perhaps conclude that the appointment of Thomas de Weston was considered invalid, as having been made without the concurrence of the owner of the Wyverston share. We shall see that Sir John de Weston afterwards bought the Pichford share of the advowson, and at the next subsequent avoidance in

<sup>1</sup> "An Account of the Manor and Parish of Blymhill," by the late Rev. the Hon. George T. O. Bridgeman, see "Staff. Coll.," Vol. II, Part 2, p. 137.

<sup>2</sup> De Banco Roll, 7 Ed. III, m. 304 ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, pp. 43, 44), from which it appears that the rectory was then vacant by the death of Roger de Staundon.

<sup>3</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 56 (from original deed at Weston).







1349 his son Thomas de Weston, lord of Weston, presented his uncle Stephen de Bromley to the rectory of Blynhill.

In 18 Ed. III (1344) Thomas, son of Hugh de Weston, gives to the Sirs (*dominis*) Thomas, Vicar of Stretton, and Roger de Weston, chaplain (which Roger may also have been another son of Hugh de Weston), all his part of the watermill of Stretton *cum stagno bagis* [qu. *bragis*] *et cursu aque*, and all his part of Thackolme, and all his field in Stretton which lies between the aforesaid mill and the bridge of Eton; to which John lord of Whistone, Roger de Bromhale, etc., were witnesses.<sup>1</sup>

Sir Hugh de Weston had also a daughter Cecilia, who seems to have become a nun, and another daughter Isolda. Both were living in 1309.<sup>2</sup>

JOHN DE WESTON, who succeeded his father Sir Hugh in 33 Ed. I (1305), being then 28 years of age, was knighted with the Prince of Wales in 1306,<sup>3</sup> and summoned to attend the Prince, prepared with horse and arms to repress the rebellion of the Scots.

He seems to have held lands in Blynhill during his father's lifetime, if he be the person mentioned by the name of *Magister* John de Weston among the other coparceners of Blynhill in a Stafford assize of 7 September, 27 Ed. I (1299).<sup>4</sup> This may have been some land which he or his father had bought from one of the heirs of Ralph de Coven, probably Hyde.

In Hilary term 1 Ed. II (1308) John son of Hugh de Weston, Robert de Hampton, John de St. George, and Ralph de Hampton the executors of the will of Hugh de Weston under Brewode, sued the Abbot of Buildwas for a debt of £16. The Abbot did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain and produce him at the quindene of Trinity.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lord Wrottesley's Huntbach Volume. The lands comprised in this grant no doubt included the land of which Sir Hugh had been enfeoffed conjointly with his wife Sarra de Stretton (referred to *ante* p. 27) as well as the meadow granted to him by Sir Richard de Stretton (*ante* p. 27, note 2). As these lands passed to his younger son Thomas and not to his eldest son Sir John, it seems probable that Sarra de Stretton was Sir Hugh's second wife, and that Segar's pedigree is correct in making Sir John's mother to be a daughter of Audithly (or Audley) of Newport. This might explain the introduction into Sir John de Weston's arms, in the east window of Weston Church, of the label fretty *or*, suggesting the amorial bearings of Audley (see *post*, p. 43, note 1).

<sup>2</sup> See next page.

<sup>3</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VIII, Part 1, p. 26.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. VII, Part 1, p. 57.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. IX, Part 1, p. 3.



On Saturday next after the Feast of St. Gregory the Pope 2 Ed. II (18 March 1309) was a convention between John lord of Weston under Brewode of the one part and Ralph de Hampton of the other. The said Ralph remitted and quit-claimed to Sir John and his heirs and assigns all the claims which he had to common of pasture in all his pastures, woods, and wastes, through the said John or his father, Sir Hugh, etc., and also reasonable estovers and common of pasture in his wood of Neuton called the Hurst, etc., in return for which the said John quit-claimed to the said Ralph and the heirs of his body all his right in 3 acres of land at Longeley in the same vill of Neuton; witnessed by Sir William de Mere, knight, Sir William de Stafford, John de Cressewall, Adam Coyne, Robert de Hampton, and many others.<sup>1</sup>

In 2 Ed. II (1309) Cecilia, sister of John lord of Weston near Brewode, gave to the said John her brother all the lands, tenements, rents, and services with the appurtenances, which she had for a term, jointly with Isolda her sister, of the Prior of St. Thomas the Martyr near Stafford in the vill of Neuton near Blithfeld; also she gave all her goods, moveable and immoveable, wheresoever they might be found, except her clothing, to the said John her brother, and to John de St. George, Robert de Hampton, and Ralph de Hampton, the executors of the will of Sir Hugh her father; dated at Neuton on Sunday next before the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary in the second year of the reign of Edward son of King Edward, in the presence of Richard, lord of Blithfeld, Richard de Bolda, Robert de Berley, Stephen de Hayward of Neuton, Thomas le Warde of the same place, and many others.<sup>2</sup>

In 3 Ed. II (1309) Sir John de Weston occurs as patron of the church of Weston, and in November of that year Thomas de Weston, acolyte, was instituted on his presentation thereto.<sup>3</sup>

In 6 Ed. II (1313) John, lord of Weston under Brewode, grants for the term of 20 years to John Bron of Weston and one assign that messuage with the curtilage etc. which John Cimri formerly held in the same, the term to commence on the Ascension of our Lord, 6 Edward son of King Edward, at a rent of 8s. 9d.

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 12. Seal, Weston eagle with legend wrongly given as "S. Richardi de Weston" (*sic*); Add. MS. 18667, fo. 60b. (from original at Weston). Here the legend on the seal is given as S. JOHANNIS DE WESTON.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 11; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 61 (from original at Weston). Cecilia was evidently about to retire into a convent.

<sup>3</sup> Lichf. Dioc. Register, Vol. I, fo. 43.



and a heriot of the best beast, if John Bron and his assign should both die within the term; to which were witnesses Robert Attewood of Weston, John de Ronton [Fonte] of the same, Robert le Parker [of Bitherton], Hugh de la Grene of the same, John Fremon of the same. Dated at Weston on the day and year above named.<sup>1</sup>

In 8 Ed. II (1314) John de Weston was summoned to the Scottish war as a Staffordshire knight, and a protection was issued to him from York, dated 9 August, together with Hugh de Audley junior and Richard de Vernon, in the retinue of William de Montague.<sup>2</sup>

In Hilary term, 8 Ed. II (1315) William, son of John de Neuton, appeared by attorney against John de Weston in a plea that he should warrant to him 10 acres of land in Neuton, for which he held the deed of Hugh de Weston, father of the said John, whose heir he is. John did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain and produce him on the octaves of Trinity.<sup>3</sup>

In 11 Ed. II (1317) Isabella, the wife of John de Weston, died. She was the sister of Stephen de Bromley, at one time rector of the church of Weston, and afterwards rector of Blynhill from 1349 to 1379. Her will, which was made at Weston on 18 September 1317, runs as follows:—

*“ In nomine patris et filii et spiritus sancti. Amen. Ego Isabella uxor Johannis de Weston condico testamentum meum in hunc modum. Imprimis lego animam meam Deo et beate Marie cum omnibus sanctis suis et corpus meum sepultum ecclesie Sancti Andree apud Weston. Item volo quod Stephanus . . . . . in ordinatione divina . . . . . Johannis domini de Weston. Item lego Stephano fratri meo xxs. Item lego viro meo unam . . . . . soror<sup>s</sup> meliorem et . . . . . sunt amica mea. Item volo quod Margareta . . . . . Item volo quod Elias de Sancto Georgio . . . . . fratribus Augusti Salopie . . . . .  
Dat. apud Weston die dominica proxima ante festum Sancti Mathei apostoli anno domini millesimo trecentesimo decimo septimo.”<sup>4</sup>* It is

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 13; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 61b. (from original at Weston). According to the annotations of the Harl. MS. the date of this deed is 6 Ed. III.

<sup>2</sup> “Staff. Coll.,” Vol. VIII, Part 1, p. 34.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. IX, Part 1, p. 49.

<sup>4</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 12; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 63 (from original at Weston).

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice. This ensures transparency and allows for easy verification of the data. The second part of the document provides a detailed breakdown of the financial data for the period. It includes a table showing the total revenue, expenses, and net profit. The table is as follows:

Category	Amount
Total Revenue	10000
Total Expenses	7500
Net Profit	2500

The final part of the document concludes with a summary of the findings and a recommendation for future actions. It suggests that the company should continue to focus on cost reduction and revenue growth to improve its overall financial performance.

endorsed "*In dei nomine. Amen. 2<sup>o</sup> kalend. Octobris anno domini millesimo ccc xviij<sup>o</sup> apud Tong coram nobis R. de Blaby venerabilis patris domini W. dei gratia Coentr. et Lichfeld Episcopi sequestratore generali probatum fuit hoc testamentum et comissa est administratio supradicti testamenti Johanni de Weston executori in dicto testamento nominato et jurato in forma juramenti. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum meum presentibus est appensum. Dat. die loco et anno supradictis.*"<sup>1</sup>

In 15 Ed. II (1321-2) a fine was levied between John de Saundersted and Elizabeth his wife, plaintiffs, and John de Weston, deforeiant, of the manor of Robaston with the appurtenances. John de Saundersted and Elizabeth acknowledged the aforesaid manor to be the right of John de Weston, and John de Weston conceded to the aforesaid John de Saundersted and Elizabeth the aforesaid manor with the appurtenances for term of life, and after the death of the aforesaid John and Elizabeth the aforesaid manor with the appurtenances was to remain to John, son of the aforesaid John de Weston, and his heirs for ever, to be held of the King by the accustomed services.<sup>2</sup>

On the Feast of St. Michael, 16 Ed. II (29 September 1322), there was a convention made between John, lord of Weston, and Richard Carpenter, by which the said John demises for a term to the said Richard all that land, with messuages, curtilages, croft, and buildings, which Thomas . . . holds in the vill of Weston, and three acres of plough land (*cumpestore*), of which one is called Wolsullesacre, the second lies in Brodstretfeld, which Hugh Pas sometime held, and the third lies under the Leccroft, to have and to hold of the said John his heirs and assigns to the said Richard and one assignee only, for the term of full 20 years, with all their appurtenances, liberties, and commons, paying to the said John his heirs and assigns annually 5s. of silver by half-yearly payment at Michaelmas and the Feast of the Blessed Mary in March for all secular service and demand saving foreign service of the King; and if the said John or his heirs should find for the said Richard or his assignee reasonable pesson for 3 or more pigs up to 12, they shall have the third best pig, and if for 13 or more, they shall

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 12; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 63 (from original at Weston).

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 27, quoting from *Fines a<sup>o</sup> 15 Ed. II*. From this we learn that John de Weston had now a second son named John.





have another; and the said Richard shall keep the houses in a fit state to the end of his term; witnessed by Richard de Pichford, Robert de Oni . . . [*qu. Quioteslay*], Adam le Porter of Weston, Robert Attewod of the same, Thomas de Stafford of the same, and others.<sup>1</sup>

In 1 Ed. III (1327), when the King's first Parliament granted him, for a subsidy to meet the expenses of the Scottish war, the twentieth part of all moveable goods throughout the realm, John de Weston was assessed at 5s. in Weston Hewes<sup>2</sup> and at 3s. in Blymhill.<sup>3</sup>

In 2 Ed. III (1328) Sir John de Weston subtus Brewode, knight, gives the third part of the fourth part of the manor of Blumenhall (Blymhill) with the appurtenances to his son John and the heirs of his body, rendering yearly to him and his heirs one pair of gauntlets (*cirotecarum*) at the Feast of Easter for all services, with remainder to himself and his heirs; to which were witnesses John de Morton, John lord of Rodbaldeston, *Magister* Stephen de Bromley, Robert de Hampton, Edmund de Morton, Robert de Bowode, and others. Dated at Blumenhull on Sunday next after the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary, 2 Ed. III (7 February 1328).<sup>4</sup>

In 4 Ed. III (1330) Sir John de Weston, knight, gives to Adam le Porter of Weston and Sara his wife their heirs and assigns one place of land with the appurtenances in Weston under Brewode, which Roger le Bere formerly assarted near his land at Marleyhey, also pesson for 6 pigs in the Ropark and in that place of wood which is called Drywode last appropriated and placed *in separali* in the aforesaid vill of Weston; witnessed by *Magister* Stephen de Bromley, Roger de Pichford, John lord of Rodbaldestone, Edmund de Morton, Robert de Bowode, John le Ffreman, Thomas de Stafford, and others. Dated at Weston aforesaid on Monday next after the Feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle, 4 Ed. III (18 June 1330).<sup>5</sup>

In 5 Ed. III (1331) Sir John de Weston gives to Robert his son, and the heirs of his body, all the lands and tenements which

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 18667, fo. 64 (from original at Weston).

<sup>2</sup> *Sc.* Weston Hugh's, so called after the name of its former proprietors to distinguish it from another Weston in the same county, which in like manner came to be known as Weston John's or Weston Jones. Weston Hugh's was more often called Weston under Brewod or Weston under Loseyerd (now Lizard).

<sup>3</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VII, Part 1, pp. 238, 242.

<sup>4</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 65 (from original at Weston).

<sup>5</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 11; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 66 (from original at Weston). Seal, the Weston eagle with legend "S. Richardi (*sic*) de Weston."



he has of the feoffment of Thomas le Warde of Neuton, with the appurtenances, in Neuton near Blithfield, with the reversion of the dower of Margery, mother of the aforesaid Thomas, paying yearly to him, the said John and his heirs, a rose at the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist for all service; in default of Robert and his issue the aforesaid lands to remain to William, brother of the said Robert, and the heirs of his body, with remainder to Alice, sister of the aforesaid Robert, son of Isolda, daughter of William de Neuton, and the heirs of her body, with remainder to the said John and his heirs; to which were witnesses *Magister* Stephen de Bromeley, Roger de Pichford, John lord of Rodbaldeston, Edmund de Morton, Robert de Bowode, and others. Dated at Neuton near Blithfelde on the Monday next after the Feast of St. Valentine the Martyr, 5 Ed. III (18 Feb. 1331).<sup>1</sup>

On the same day, by deed dated at Blenumhull, Sir John de Weston gives to his son John, and the heirs of his body, the third part of the fourth part of the manor of Blumenhall (Blynhill), except a messuage and land which he has of the feoffment of Thomas de la Hyde, and except the advowson of the Church of Blumenhall, to hold of him and his heirs, paying thence annually to the aforesaid John for his life 20s. at the Feasts of St. Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary in equal portions, and after his decease a rose annually to his right heirs at the Feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist for all services, and doing to the chief lords of the fee the accustomed services; and if the said John should die without issue the premises to remain to Robert, son of the grantor, and the heirs of his body, with remainder to William, the brother of Robert, and the heirs of his body, with remainder to the said Sir John and his heirs for ever; to which were witnesses *Magister* Stephen de Bromley, Roger de Pichford, John lord of Rodbaldeston, Edmund de Morton, Robert de Bowood, and others.<sup>2</sup>

At a later date in the same year Sir John de Weston declares by deed, in Norman French, that he will no further diminish the patrimony that should descend to his son Thomas, in the following words: "To all those who shall see or hear of these letters, I, John de Weston under Breuwode, chivaler, send greeting in the Lord. Know ye that I have sworn by oath that for the future I

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 16; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 67 (from original at Rugeley).

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 22b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 66b. (from original at Weston).



will not make any diminution of my heritage, that I had by descent after the death of Hugh my father, to the disinherittance of my son Thomas; in witness whereof I have set my seal to these letters. Dated at Weston under Bruwode the second day of June in the 5th year of the reign of King Edward III since the conquest, in the presence of Mons. John de Hufeord, John de Aldenam, William de Waley, John de Saundestede, *Magister* Stephen de Bromley, William de Leuresete, Edmund de Morton, and Robert de Bowod.<sup>1</sup>

In 9 Ed. III (1335) John de Weston, chivaler, and Thomas de Weston, chivaler, had letters of protection in the suite of John Earl of Cornwall, the King's brother, to the Scottish wars; dated from York, 8 June.<sup>2</sup>

In 13 Ed. III (1339) Roger de Pichford conceded to Sir John de Weston, knight, all that croft of land enclosed by a hedge and ditch, which William Pyneferthing formerly held, and one acre of land, which was called the cressed acre, with the appurtenances, in Blemmhull, and the advowson of the Church of Blemmhull, that is to say all his purparty which he had had or had in the advowson of the church aforesaid, to have and to hold to the said John and his heirs and assigns of the chief lords of the fee by the accustomed services; to which were witnesses *Magister* Stephen de Bromley, Thomas de Weston, son of the aforesaid Sir John, of Bruynton, Robert de Bowode, William de Brescote, and others. Dated at Blemenhull on Wednesday next after the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mary, 13 Ed. III (18 August 1339).<sup>3</sup>

In 14 Ed. III (1340) Sir John de Weston, knight, gives to Robert his son all that messuage with the appurtenances in Weston under Luseyerd which he has by the feoffment of Sir Henry Attewode of Weston, chaplain, to have and to hold to the said Robert and the heirs of his body for ever, paying yearly to him and his heirs one halfpenny at the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary for all services; and if the said Robert should die without issue the said messuage with the appurtenances to remain to William, brother of the said Robert, and the heirs of his body, with remainder to Agnes, sister of William, and the heirs of her body, with remainder to the said John and his heirs for ever;

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 13b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 68 (from original at Weston).

<sup>2</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VIII, Part 1, p. 54. It is interesting to find father and son both serving as knights at the same time. Sir John was now 58 years of age.

<sup>3</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fos. 69 and 69b. (from original at Weston).





to which were witnesses Roger de Pichford, John son of the aforesaid John de Weston, knight, Robert de Bowode, Thomas Nowel, Richard Attewode of Weston, Thomas de Stafford of the same, and others. Dated at Weston under Lusezard on the Monday next after the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, 14 Ed. III (3 October 1340).<sup>1</sup>

A few weeks earlier, namely on 6 August 1340, the Abbot of Burton on Trent, Thomas de Halughton, and Robert de Mauvey-sin, knights, appointed by letters patent of the King to sell the ninth of the lambs, skins, and sheafs of all kind of corn conceded to the King in the county of Stafford, sell to John de Weston, knight, and John the son of the said John de Weston the aforesaid ninth within the parish of the church of Weston-under-Luzeyerd for the present year, etc. Dated at Stafford on the Friday next after the Feast of St. Peter *ad vincula*, 14 Ed. III.<sup>2</sup>

In 16 Ed. III (1342) Sir John de Weston served in the wars of France. "In this year the dispute respecting the succession to Brittany led to a renewal of the war between the English and the French. The truce between the two countries did not expire till the month of June, but Charles de Blois, one of the claimants, having obtained possession of Nantes by surprise, and taken his rival John de Montfort prisoner, an English force under the command of Sir Walter Mauny was sent early in the year to the relief of Hennebon, to which Joan de Montfort the wife of John had retired with her infant son, and which was closely invested by the forces of Charles. The story of the gallant defence of Hennebon by Joan de Montfort and its relief by Sir Walter Mauny will be found in all the histories of the period."<sup>3</sup> Froissart's account of the reception by Joan of her English allies is given by General Wrottesley in the "Staffordshire Collections."<sup>4</sup> Sir Walter had with him many Staffordshire knights. It appears from the French Roll that John de Weston and others who were abroad in the King's service in the retinue of Ralph de Stafford, one of de Mauny's companions, had letters of protection dated 22 August (1342) available till Easter.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 14b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 70b. (from original at Rugeley "penes Master Weston"). This is the first time we meet with Weston described as Weston under Lizard.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 15; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 70 (from original at Weston).

<sup>3</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VIII, Part 1, p. 66.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 67.



This is the last time Sir John de Weston occurs as serving in the King's wars; in fact he was then 65 years of age. On 16 Oct. 21 Ed. III (1347), when the wars were still going on in France, a writ was issued to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer to supersede all demands on John de Weston for a man at arms, a hobelar, and an archer.<sup>1</sup> On the following day another writ was issued to exonerate Thomas de Weston who had been assessed at a hobelar for his lands in co. Stafford and had sent to Portsmouth John de Ovyoteshaye, a hobelar *sufficienter paratum*.<sup>2</sup>

In the meantime, in 19 Ed. III (1345), Sir John de Weston, knight, gave to Robert his son all the messuages, lands, and tenements, with the appurtenances, which he had of the feoffment of Hamund de Berterton and Richard, son of Richard the Smith of Berterton, in Weston near Brewode and in Berterton, to have and to hold to the said Robert and his issue, paying annually to him and his heirs one penny of silver, etc., with remainder to his (the donor's) daughter Isolda, and the heirs of his body, with remainder to his daughter Elena and the heirs of her body, with remainder to his daughter Elizabeth and the heirs of her body; to which were witnesses John de Bromley, John de Ermington, John son of Sir John de Weston, Richard Attewode of Weston, Robert Bowod, and others. Dated at Weston near Brewode on Friday in the Feast of St. Martin, bishop, 19 Ed. III (11 November 1345).<sup>3</sup>

In 20 Ed. III (1346) Sir John de Weston grants to his daughter Isolda as a fine or compensation (*nomine gresume*) that messuage and all the lands and tenements, with their appurtenances, which Roger Morys formerly held of him in Weston near Brewode, and one place of land with the appurtenances in the same which is called le personeimates, and two acres of land with the appurtenances in the same, of which one is called le Strudane and another acre of land lies in le Hethebruche which Adam le

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VIII, Part 1, p. 90, and Vol. XVIII, Part 2, p. 135. This was one of the first writs tested by the King upon his return to England after the battle of Crecy and the siege of Calais. He returned on the 14th and the writ is dated from Westminster 16 Oct. 1347. (cf. Vol. XVII, Part 2, p. 56.)

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XVIII, Part 2, p. 158. A hobelar was a lightly armed horseman on a small horse, and at this time he was usually armed with bow and arrows instead of a lance. (cf. *ibid.*, p. 3, and *Addenda*.)

<sup>3</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 7<sup>b</sup>.; Harl. MS. 5516, fo. 3<sup>b</sup>. (*ex evid. M<sup>o</sup> Walteri Giffard de Chillingtona* 29 Aug. 1631).



Porter formerly held, and one place of meadow with the appurtenances in the same which is called Spommemedew, and one place of wood in the same which is called le Bridshute, and that vivary in the same which is called Amyespol with the stank and the whole circuit thereof for going a-fishing when she pleased, together with full power of breaking down the said vivary and letting out the water and of stanking it up again whenever she should please, and two places of pasture with the appurtenances in the same, of which one is called Rowmore and the other is called Balitroumer, with the pasture which is called le Conrake with free ingress and egress to the same. Besides he grants to the same Isolda twelve cart loads of heather and broom to be taken annually from his heath of Weston at her will with free ingress and egress to take it and to carry it away whenever she pleases; and pesson for twelve pigs annually at pesson time in his park and woods of Weston quit of pannage, with free ingress and egress. Moreover he grants to the aforesaid Isolda all the oaks standing and growing in Lyndones Ruding and in le Wodefeld to be cut down and carried away and used in whatever manner should seem good to her; to have and to hold to the aforesaid Isolda for the term of her life, together with the full power to hold the said meadow separately at any time of the year, of him and his heirs, paying yearly one rose flower at the Feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist for all services, with remainder after the death of the same Isolda to Elena, sister of the aforesaid Isolda, for term of life, with remainder after the death of Elena to Elizabeth, sister of the aforesaid Elena, in like manner. If the said Isolda, Elena, and Elizabeth, however, should be married according to their position by him or his son Thomas from their own proper goods, then all the aforesaid with their appurtenances should revert to him and his heirs, and the present writing should be null and void. Dated at Weston on Thursday next after the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, 20 Ed. III (26 Jan. 1346). Witnesses: John de Bronley, William Trimewin, Robert de Say, Robert de Bowode, Richard Attewod of Weston, and others.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 71b. (from original at Weston). *cf.* Harl. MS. 1816, fo. 15b. From the wording of this deed it would seem that all these three daughters were at this time unmarried: If so, Elena must have died before 1350 without issue, for it is clear that on the extinction of the direct male line in that year, the manor of Weston became divisible into five shares only, and three of Sir John's daughters must have been married in 1346.





Sir John de Weston was dead before 5 May 23 Ed. III (1349).<sup>1</sup>

THOMAS DE WESTON styles himself lord of Weston in witnessing a deed whereby John son of Sir John de Weston juxta Brewode and Osbert de Tamworth, chaplain, grant to Joan, widow of William de Bourgh, for her life all the lands, tenements, fields, woods, and pastures, which they have and hold in the lordship of Ronton, with all the homage, rents and services of Hillaria de Bourgh and John de Omme and their heirs and assigns for the lands and tenements which they hold of them in the fee of Ronton, and they also give to the same Joan for her life a moiety of all the lands and tenements of Parva Holney with their appurtenances in the fee of Gnoushale, and five royal acres of land lying in Westwode with their appurtenances, and the whole of one water which is called Gosmerpol with all its rights and appurtenances; and after the death of the said Joan the aforesaid lands etc. to remain to William, the son of William de Bourgh, and Elizabeth his wife and the heirs of the body of the said William; and if the said William and Elizabeth should die without heirs of the body of the said William, then after the decease of the said William and Elizabeth all the said lands etc. should remain to the right heirs of the said William de Bourgh for ever; to which were witnesses *Thomas Lord of Weston near Brewode*, Robert Lord of Knighteley, Robert de Couleye, Robert de Bowode, Richard de Ruel, and others. Dated at le Bourgh, on the Saturday next after the Feast of the Apostles Philip and James, 23 Ed. III (5 May 1349).<sup>2</sup> The deed is sealed

<sup>1</sup> In the east window of Weston Church are still to be seen the kneeling figures of Sir John de Weston and his first wife Isabella de Bromley in surcoat and robe with the irrespectiv arms upon them: beneath him the words DÑS IOHANÑS and above him a shield with the Weston arms (*sa.* an eagle displayed *arg.*, membered *or*, and a label of three points fretty *or*); beneath her the words DÑE ISABELLA and above her a shield with the Bromley arms (quarterly per fess indented *or* and *gu.*); between these two shields is another (*gu.* fretty *or*) apparently for Audley, and under it is now the figure of St. Andrew the patron saint. There is an elaborate illuminated drawing of the kneeling figures in Add. MS. 18667, fo. 43 (made *circa*. 1632), and also sketches of them in Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 30 (taken about the same time), and in Harl. MS. 2129, fo. 171 (195 new notation) (taken *circa*. 1660). In the latter it is stated that the centre shield then at the bottom of the window was "at the feete of an image which is broke and defaced and not knowne what to be": in Dugdale's Vis. of Staffs., 1663, preserved at the College of Arms, this image is said to be that of our Lady: the figure of St. Andrew now in the window was put there when the church was recently restored, and the relative positions of the shields and figures have been transposed. The label in the Weston arms seems to have been originally *gu.* fretty *or*.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 14; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 73b. (from original at Rugeley "penes Master Weston").





in red wax with the Weston eagle, surmounted by a bend or bendlet, and the legend *S. Johannis de Weston*. The other seal is illegible.

Thomas de Weston presented Stephen de Bromley to the rectory of Blymhill in the month of August 1349<sup>1</sup>; and Roger de Weston, chaplain, was instituted on his presentation to the church of Weston-under-Lossyerd on the resignation of Sir Stephen [de Bromley] in September of the same year.<sup>2</sup>

Thomas de Weston, the lord of Weston, died shortly afterwards and was succeeded by his son ROBERT DE WESTON, a minor, who died soon afterwards. They must have been both dead by March 1349-50, when John de Cokeslone, chaplain, was admitted to the rectory of Weston under Luzyord on the presentation of Thomas Foljaumb, patron for that turn.<sup>3</sup>

As this year, 1349, was the year of the pestilence generally known as the Black Death, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that father, son, and grandson, as well as John, another son of Sir John de Weston, Sir William Trumwyne and Robert de Say, sons-in-law of Sir John de Weston, and Roger de Weston, the rector of Weston, doubtless a near relation, who all apparently died in that year, if not also Elena, the daughter of Sir John, who appears to have been living and unmarried in 1346 but to have died before her nephew, all fell victims to that terrible plague.

It would appear that this last presentation to Weston Church was challenged, for Richard de Tissynton, clerk, has the King's letters of presentation to the church of Weston under Loseyerd, in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, and in the King's gift by reason of the minority of William Trumwyn who is in the King's custody. The letters, which are dated from Westminster, 28 November 25 Ed. III (1351), are addressed to R. Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield.<sup>4</sup> The King's claim seems to have been rejected, for John de Cokes-

<sup>1</sup> Lichf. Dioc. Register, Vol. II, fo. 183.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, fo. 187.

<sup>4</sup> Pat. Roll, 25 Ed. III, Part 3, m. 7. The claim of the King to present may possibly be explained by the fact that, where an inheritance which included an advowson descended to coparceners and the share of any of the coheirs was in the hands of the King, if the benefice became void before partition of the advowson had been made, the presentation belonged to the King by virtue of the Royal Prerogative (see Pat. Roll, 31 Ed. III, Part 2, m. 23). But it is not clear that the Royal Prerogative was applicable except in the case of lands held of the King *in capite*. (cf. Year Book, 38 Hen. VI, 9, and 3 Hen. VII, 5, abridged in Brooke's Abr., Vol. II, pp. 151-5, pl. 35, 42.)



lone was not only then in possession but was living and parson of Weston in July 1373. Roger de Northburgh was bishop at that time.

On the death of Robert de Weston the manors of Weston and Newton were divided into five equal parts and passed to his aunts, the daughters of Sir John de Weston by Isabella de Bromley and therefore Robert's heirs of the whole blood, or their representatives.

But before speaking of these coheirs some further mention should be made of the children of Sir John de Weston by his second wife Isolda daughter of William de Newton, who was probably a distant cousin of his own. These children by Isolda de Newton appear to have been Robert, William, Alice, and Agnes, and possibly also John. It is however more probable that John was a younger son of the first marriage, for neither Robert nor William is ever described as his brother, though they are called brothers of one another; if so, he must have died (probably of the Black Death) before his brother Thomas, or at any rate before his nephew Robert. In the arms on his seal above-mentioned, the bend is not a bend sinister, and there is no cause to question his legitimacy.<sup>1</sup>

In some of the deeds above given Sir John makes a provision for these his younger children.<sup>2</sup> By his deeds of 1322, 1328, and 1331 he provides for his son John, on whom he settles the manor of Rodbaston and apparently two third parts of the fourth part of the manor of Blynhill (excepting the advowson of the church), the last grant being made with successive remainders to the grantor's son Robert, and to William, Robert's brother, and to Alice, his sister, and to their respective issue, with remainder to his own right heirs. By another deed of 1331 he settles certain lands and tenements in Newton, which he acquired from Thomas le Warde of Newton, on his son Robert, with remainder to his brother William and his sister Alice, daughter of Isolda de Newton. By his deed of 1340, to which John, son of Sir John de Weston, is a witness, he gives a messuage in Weston, which he had by feoffment of Henry Attewood of Weston, to his son Robert and his issue, with remainder to his brother William and his issue, with remainder to their sister *Agnes* and her issue, from which, if

<sup>1</sup> At the beginning of the 14th century a bend or bendlet, then usually termed a "baton," was a common mark of difference. An instance of this will be found in Henry of Lancaster's banner at the siege of Caerlaverock (1300):

"E portoit les armes son frere,  
Au blen bastoun sanz le label."

*cf.* Nicholl's "Herald. and Genealogist," Vol. II, pp. 36, 38.

<sup>2</sup> *ante*, pp. 36-41.



correctly transcribed, we may perhaps infer that the other sister, Alice, was now dead. By his deed of November 1345 he gives to his son Robert and his issue certain messuages, lands, and tenements in Weston and Beighterton, which he also seems to have lately acquired; and as he settles them in default of the issue of Robert on his daughters Isolda, Elena, and Elizabeth in succession, it is probable that William and Agnes were also deceased without issue at that time.

John, son of Sir John de Weston, incidentally occurs as a landowner in Blynhill and a witness to a deed in 23 Ed. III (1349),<sup>1</sup> after which we hear no more of him, and he probably died without issue. His two thirds of a fourth part of the manor of Blynhill seem to have eventually fallen to the lords of Weston, but as one third was settled on his brother Robert de Weston and the heirs of his body on failure of the issue of John, and Robert left issue, it is not clear how this came about.

Robert de Weston occurs on the Wednesday after the Feast of St. Barnabas, 24 Ed. III (16 June 1350), as attorney for his sister Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John de Weston, one of the coheirs, to deliver her purparty of the manor of Newton to Stephen de Bromley her trustee.<sup>2</sup> He is mentioned in a suit of 1355 as a tenant of land at Weston,<sup>3</sup> and he occurs as a witness to a deed dated at Weston on the Monday next after the Feast of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, 32 Ed. III (9 July 1358).<sup>4</sup> In the pedigree drawn up by Segar, Garter King, for Richard Weston Earl of Portland in 1632 he is called Robert de Weston of Betterton in Weston-under-Luzers, younger son of John de Weston, knight, living in 32 Ed. III (1358), and his son John de Weston, of Betterton and of Newton in 49 Ed. III (1375) and 20 Ric. II (1397), appears as father of Richard de Weston of Rugeley 6 Hen. VI (1428), ancestor of the Westons of Rugeley and the Westons of Lichfield, from which latter branch the Earl of Portland derived his descent.<sup>5</sup> The Westons of Lichfield are, it is believed, the senior branch of the family now extant, of which Col. Gould Hunter-Weston of Hunterston, co. Ayr, is the present representative.

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. II, Part 2, p. 103; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 73 (from original at Weston).

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 21b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 74 (from original at Weston).

<sup>3</sup> De Banco Roll, Easter 29 Ed. III ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XII, Part 1, p. 132).

<sup>4</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 13b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 76b. (from original at Weston).

<sup>5</sup> "Erdeswick's Staffordshire," edited by Rev. Thomas Harwood, ed. of 1844, p. 164; Add. MS. 18667.





Some interesting information is to be obtained from the Subsidy Rolls of 1 Ed. III (1327) and 6 Ed. III (1332) as well as from the celebrated Poll Tax of 4 Ric. II (1380-1) as to the names of the principal inhabitants of Weston at those dates. In the first of these Subsidy Rolls, which had reference to a subsidy of one twentieth part of all moveable goods, granted by Parliament to meet the expenses of the Scotch War, we find the following names under Weston-Hewes<sup>1</sup> :—

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
John le fremon ... ..	3	0
Adam le Porter ... ..	3	1
John de Ronton ... ..	2	6
John de Weston ... ..	5	0
William de Dalyleye .. ..	3	0
John Attewalle ... ..	4	0
Robert Attewode ... ..	1	6
John de Covene ... ..	2	0
William Bagot ... ..	2	3
Ralph faber [smith] ... ..	1	6
Adam Sibelysone ... ..	1	0
John Tyrry ... ..	9	

Again in the Subsidy Roll of 1332, a subsidy for a similar purpose, in which the people outside the boroughs etc. were taxed at one fifteenth of their goods, the following names occur under Weston H<sup>2</sup>wes<sup>2</sup> :—

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Robert Attewode ... ..	2	0
John de Ronton ... ..	3	0
John le Muleward... ..	4	0
John Broun ... ..	2	0
John Tyrry ... ..	1	6
Roger Hod ... ..	3	0
Thomas le Valans ... ..	4	0
Henry Bagote ... ..	3	0
John de Weston ... ..	5	0
John le Best ... ..	1	6
John de Covene ... ..	1	6

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VII, Part 1, pp. 195, 242.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. X, Part 1, pp. 79, 126.



	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Ralph le Smyth ... ..	1	0
John Fremon ... ..	1	6
Adam Dolfyn ... ..	1	0

In the Poll Tax of 1380-1, which may conveniently be referred to here, but which more properly belongs to the period treated of in the next following pages, we find the following names under Weston and Bighterton<sup>1</sup>:—

*Weston Hues.*

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Willelmus Attewalle cultor Alicia uxor ejus	2	0
Thomas Tornour cultor Isabella uxor ...	2	0
Johannes serviens Ade de Peshale militis	1	0
Willelmus serviens Johannis in the Stones	1	0
Ricardus de Mittone operarius ... ..	1	0
Hugo Carter serviens monialium ... ..	1	0
Johanna in the Stones vidua ... ..	1	0
Willelmus Porter cultor ... ..	1	0
Adam Bercarius cultor Editha uxor ...	2	4
Hugo Haywarde cultor Marjoria uxor ...	2	0
Alicia de Londone vidua ... ..	1	0
Hugo Cartwright laborator ... ..	1	0
Johannes Blakemere cultor Agnes uxor ...	2	0
Henricus Taillour cultor Johanna uxor ..	2	0
Editha filia Mauricii cotaria ... ..	8	
Radulfus Taillour cultor Isabella uxor ...	2	0
Thomas Blakemere cultor Johanna uxor...	2	0
Ricardus de Whistone cultor Felicia uxor	2	0
Walterus Webbe laborator ... ..	1	0
Hugo Parkere cultor ... ..	1	0
Johannes Parker cultor Juliana uxor ...	2	0
Willelmus Broun cultor Alicia uxor ejus	2	0
Willelmus Dawlynsone cultor Alicia uxor	2	0
Thomas Northale cultor Isabella uxor ..	2	0

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVII, pp. 202-204.



*Bertherton.*

Lucia Spynner laborator  
 Ricardus Fellesone cultor  
 Willelmus Dorilot Margeria

. . . . .  
 Felicia filia ejus  
 . . . . .

The majority of these are entered as '*cultor*' or husbandman, of whom thirteen were married and three unmarried; there were only three entered as '*serviens*' or servant, one as '*operarius*' or workman, three as '*laborator*' or labourer, two as '*vidua*' or widow, and one as '*cotaria*' or female cottier. The name of Sir Adam de Peshale, then the lord of Weston, does not appear: probably he was assessed elsewhere.



WESTON, OF WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD.

*Arms.*—Or: an eagle displayed *sc.*  
*Arms (of Sir John de Weston).*  
 —Sable, an eagle displayed *arg.*, over all a label of three points [*arg.*] pretty *or.*

Ralph Fitz Urnel, lord of Newton, co. Staffs., *†*  
 c. 1120-1126.

Robert Fitz Ralph, held a knight's fee in Weston  
 and Newton of William FitzAlan in 1167.

Sir Ilamo de Weston, Kt., lord of Weston and Newton 1176-7—Agnes, rel. 1214,  
 and 1187-8, a knight 1199, living 1212, *def.* 1214.

Osbert de Weston, *Magister* John de Weston, lord *†*  
 of Weston and Newton 1211,  
*def.* 1227-8.

*Arms.*—Or: a chevron between three  
 lions passant guardant, the middle  
 one smaller than the other two.  
 Robert de Weston, lord  
 of Weston and Newton,  
 survived his father, but  
*def.* *def.* *s.p.* March Weston.  
 1350.

Robert de Weston, brother of  
 John de Weston, witness to  
 Westons and Reinton,  
 Bithfield deed *sc.*

March de Say, of More-  
 ton Say co. d.  
 1339, d. 27  
 Sept. 1349,  
 leaving a  
 son and heir  
 Robert, then *ad.*  
 Robert, then *ad.*  
 8; m. (2) Mat-  
 thew de Foultes-  
 hurst, who d. *s.p.*  
*ca.* May 1362.  
 She was living  
 1370.

Ilamo de Weston, *alias* de Alice, sur-  
 Beinton, held lands in  
 Weston and Reinton,  
 his husband.

Elizabeth, dau.  
 and coheir of  
 Westons, living  
 1346, d. c.  
 1366, *s. p.*  
 Kt., and relict of  
 Sir Henry Mort-  
 mer, Kt., of Chel-  
 marsh co. Salop;  
 m. (3) 1389 Joyce,  
 dau. and eventu-  
 ally coheir of Sir  
 John de Beinton,  
 Kt., of Weoley,  
 and relict of Sir  
 Baldwin Pevill,  
 Kt. He d. 28  
 Oct. 1149.

William Trumwyn, of Margery . . .  
 Camnock, forester;  
*rel.* 19 on 29 Sept.  
 1349, d. 16 Nov.  
 1361.

William Reynald, Isabel Trumwyn, aunt  
 of Leacroft  
 (2nd hus-  
 band).

Nicholas de Margreth, dau. and  
 heir of Sir Wil-  
 liam Trussell,  
 Kt. of Cables,  
 don; m. (2) Sir  
 Falk Pemburze  
 of Tong; d. *s.p.*  
 1399.

William Trumwyn, son  
 and heir, *rel.* 18 weeks  
 on 15 March 1362, d.  
*alias s.p.*

John Trumwyn, twin  
 with William (or else  
 posthumous). 2nd son  
 and eventual heir of  
 his father, d. Oct. 1369  
*alias s.p.*

Elizabeth Trumwyn, sister  
 and heir of John Trum-  
 wyn, *rel.* 15 on 8 Dec.  
 1369, m. *ca.* 12 June  
 1371 Roger Lantant,  
 d. *s.p.* 20 July 1375.

A son, living  
 1375, d. *s.p.*

John Saleway, son and  
 heir of Isabel (wife of  
 Nicholas Rugeley),  
 Standford co.  
 Worcester.  
 1399, d. 1421.

Humphrey Saleway, Esq., of Camnock co. Staffs.,  
 and of Standford co. Worcester; d. March 1391.

Saleways of Standford.



WESTON, OF WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD.

As on - On an angle displayed  
to - from (or Sir John de Weston).  
- So, on an angle displayed  
over all a label of three points  
(p.) freely so.

Robert Fitz Urnol, lord of Newton, co. Staffs.,  
c. 1120-1126.

Robert Fitz Urnol, lord of a knight's fee in Weston  
and Kenon of William Fitz-Urnol in 1167.

Sir Hamo de Weston, kt., lord of Weston and Newton 1170-77 Agnes, rel. 1214,  
and 1187-8, in knight 1199, living 1214, age 124.

Osbert de Weston,  
oc. c. 1199, d. c. p.  
et. p.

Magnus John de Weston, lord of  
de Weston and Newton 1211-12,  
d. c. 1212-6.

Robert de Weston, brother of  
John de Weston, whose in-  
plish deed of d.

Hamo de Weston, alias Fitz-Alban, sur-  
vived her husband.  
Hesterin, held lands in  
Weston and Beletton.

Sir Hugh de Weston, lord of Weston and Beletton, co. Stafford 1231-14, in knight 1254-5, living 1268-9, age 1254; son, also as Hugh de Weston the Younger.

Johanna Weston, daughter of Newton, called Margareta John de Weston 1257 (p. Scarschall to Thomas Blomer 1261, crumner 1270).

Robert de Newton, crumner living 1271-2.  
William de Weston, clerk, (rector of Weston, living 1254-5, living 1271-2, Nicholas, brother of Hubert de Weston, living 1271-2.

Alister Henry de Weston, oc. 1234-5, age, Henry de Henry, son of John de Weston, living 1271-2.

Thomas, son and heir of Hamo de Beletton, son of William, son of Hamo de Weston, 1261.

Robert de Weston, son of Hamo de Weston, 1261.

Mattilda, daughter of Hugh de Weston the Younger.

William, son of Hugh de Weston the Younger, being c. 1239, heir to his mother, Matilda, who died in Weston, 1241, d. c. p. et. p.

Sir Hugh de Weston (1), knight in arms of the Banner 1254-5, lord of Weston and Newton 1271, in knight 1270, living 1286, age 1286, 1289.

Sore, dau. of Richard de Newton, living 1292 (2nd wife).

William de Newton, occ. 1268, 1281.

James de Beletton, son of Robert de Beletton.

Robert, younger brother of James de Beletton.

Margery, dau. of Robert de Beletton.

Isabella, sister of Sir John de Weston, kt., lord of Weston and Kenon, and daughter of Blunhild, of 1241, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 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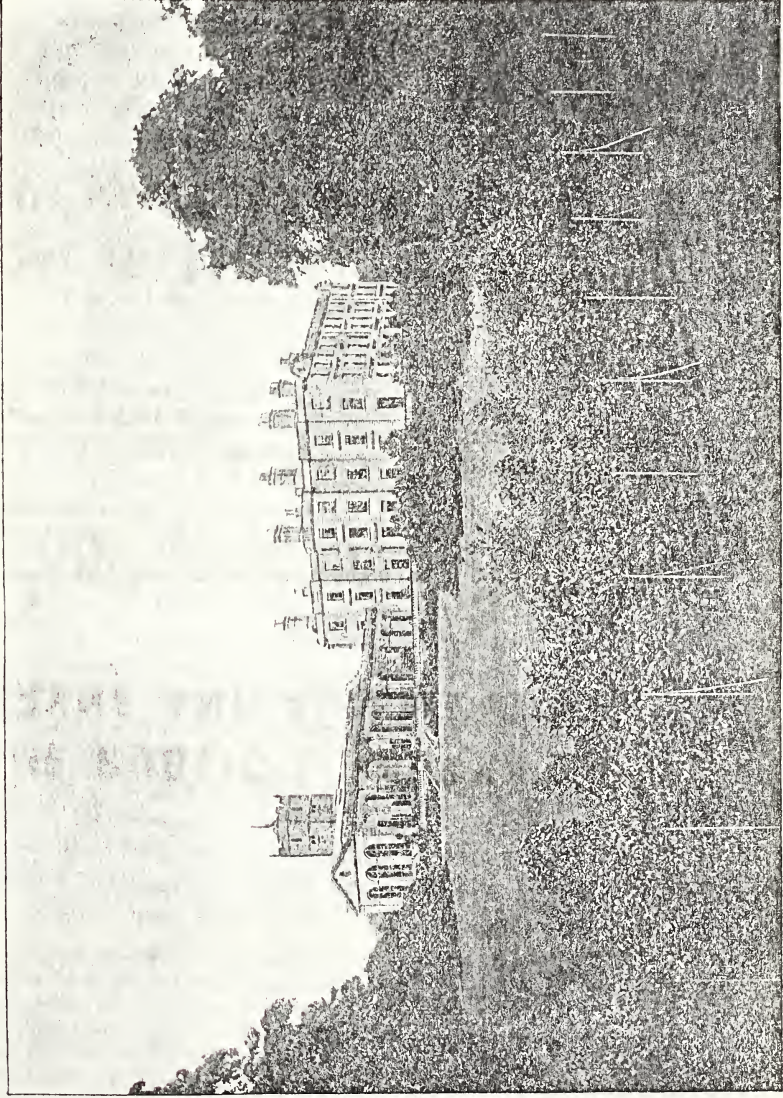


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Weston Hall from the West.





that there were not more than five coheirs of Robert de Weston, and there can be little doubt that Elena died before her nephew, probably another victim to the ravages of the terrible plague which carried off so many members of her family.<sup>1</sup> It seems tolerably certain however from the entries in the Lichfield Diocesan Register concerning the presentations to the Church of Weston that Isolda was the second sister. From these we learn that John de Cokeslone was admitted in March 1349-50 on the presentation of Thomas Foljaumb, on the death of the former Rector [Roger de Weston], that in 1378 William de Blumenhull was admitted on the presentation of the King, as custodian of the land and heir of William Trumwyn deceased, for that turn, the church being vacant on the resignation of John Cokeslone, and yet that in July 1381 Roger de Aston was admitted on the presentation of Sir Adam de Peshale, the church being vacant *by the resignation of John Cokeslone last Rector*.<sup>2</sup> As we find Roger de Aston parson of the Church of Weston on 27 June 1386<sup>3</sup> and on many other subsequent occasions until his death in 1439-40, it is evident that the appointment of William de Blumenhull was after a considerable interval upset, and that the appointment by Sir Adam de Peshale held good. Now it will be seen later that there were two shares, which had been taken into the King's hands on the death of the last issue in tail of William Trumwyn (son of Sir William) in 1375, and to which Adam de Peshale was then rightfully entitled, viz. the shares of Isolda le Champion and Elizabeth de Whyston, and as already stated Isolda was probably older than Elizabeth. We have therefore strong grounds for supposing that Isolda was the second sister.

The devolution of the several shares of the manor of Weston, which all came ultimately to the descendants of Sir Adam de Peshale, presents many difficulties, and the tracing of the title to them is much complicated by the fact that some of the shares were at different times held by various branches of the family. Thus

<sup>1</sup> In the pedigree of the family in Add. MS. 18667 (at the British Museum) drawn up by Segar Garter King of Arms in 1632, as also in that in the Huntbach MSS., Vol. II (*penes* Lord Wrottesley), Elena is given as the name of the daughter who married Sir William Trumwyn, but there does not appear to be any evidence for this statement, and it seems clear from the deed of 1346 that Elena was then unmarried, whereas the wife of Sir William Trumwyn had a son born in 1330.

<sup>2</sup> Lichf. Dioc. Register, Vol. II, fo. 187; Vol. IV, fos. 72, 74.

<sup>3</sup> See *post*, p. 79.





the Foljambe share, and the reversion of the Fouleshurst share, passed to the Whystons, part of the lands belonging to the Fouleshurst share to the Champions, while both the Champion and Whyston shares were at one time vested in the Trumwyns. But a careful consideration of the evidence still extant will, it is thought, be found to dispel most of the difficulties, although there may be points of minor importance which cannot be determined with certainty. The devolutions of the Champion and Whyston shares are closely connected with one another, and to a certain extent also with that of the Trumwyn share, while the titles to the Foljambe and Fouleshurst shares have also points in common: in treating of the several shares it will therefore be convenient to take them somewhat out of what is believed to be their proper order.

To begin then with the *Foljambe* share.

Thomas de Foljambe or Foljaumb, if the husband and not the son of the eldest sister, may possibly have been Thomas, one of the sons of Thomas Foljambe of Tideswell co. Derby (the lineal representative of Sir Thomas Foljambe Bailiff of the High Peak in Derbyshire *temp.* Ed. I), and brother of John Feljambe of Tideswell; if so, she must have been his first wife, and he must have afterwards married another wife named Elena, who survived him, and who as the relict of Thomas Foljambe was married to Robert de Staveleigh in or before 41 Ed. III (1367).<sup>1</sup> But in all probability the Weston coheiress was the wife of Thomas Foljambe of Tideswell (the father), and mother of the John and Thomas Foljambe above mentioned; in which case the person who presented to the living of Weston in 1350 was presumably her husband. The number of persons in this family who bore the same Christian name makes it difficult to speak with any confidence on the point, but that it must have been one of the Foljambes of Tideswell is made clear by the fact that one-fifth of the manor of Newton was in the possession of John Foljambe of Tideswell in 45 Ed. III (1371) and afterwards of his son Roger,<sup>2</sup> and remained in that family until the year 1567, when it was sold by Godfrey Foljambe Esq. of Walton co. Derby to Richard Bagot Esq. of Blithfield.<sup>3</sup>

The *Foljambe* share of the manor of *Weston* was purchased by Sir John de Whyston, Elizabeth de Weston's first husband. This is made evident by a comparison of the deed of accord of 9 October

<sup>1</sup> *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica* (J. G. Nichols), Vol. I, pp. 105, 106.

<sup>2</sup> *Memorials of the Bagot Family*, p. 16.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*; and *cf.* *Final Conc. temp. Eliz.*, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 266.



1375 with the deed of exchange of 30 March 1380, both of which are given hereafter at full length (pp. 58-60); the share described in the former as having formerly belonged to Thomas Foljambe is thereby identified with one of the two shares purchased by Sir John de Whyston as mentioned in the latter deed. No copy or abstract of the conveyance to Sir John de Whyston has however been preserved amongst the transcripts of the Weston evidences in Additional MS. 18667 and Harleian MS. 5816, both now at the British Museum.

Sir John de Whyston served in the French wars in the retinue of the Black Prince; and was present both at the battle of Crecy and at the siege of Calais.<sup>1</sup> He was living in June 1358,<sup>2</sup> and also at Easter 1359, when he sues Roger in the Wode of Weston near Blumenhull for forcibly breaking into his close at Weston near Blumenhull and trampling down and consuming his growing corn and grass with his cattle to the value of 100s. Roger did not appear, and the Sheriff returned that he held nothing etc. He was therefore ordered to arrest and produce him on the Quindene of St. Michael,<sup>3</sup> before which time Sir John de Whyston was dead. He died before the Sunday next after the Feast of St. James the Apostle, 33 Ed. III (27 July 1359), on which day Elizabeth who had been the wife of Sir John de Whiston, knight, by deed dated at Weston-under-Lizard quit-claims to Sir William Sharesull for herself and her heirs all their right and title to the manor of Little Saredon.<sup>4</sup>

In the suit of the executors of John de Lee of co. Chester to recover £30 against the estate of John de Whiston, knight, the Sheriff returned into Court an extent of all the lands and tenements of the said John de Whiston which he held on the Thursday before Easter 32 Ed. III (1358) [the date of his acknowledgment of the debt], on the oath of a jury who stated that John de Whiston held on the date named the *manor* [*sic*] of Weston, of which the houses both of stone and wood were worth

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVIII, Part 2, pp. 32, 159.

<sup>2</sup> By deed dated at Parva Sardon on the Sunday next after the octave of the Holy Trinity 32 Ed. III (10 June 1358) Sir John de Whyston, knight, gives his manor of Little Saredon, with all the rents and services of his tenants etc. in the same manor, to Sir William Sharesull, knight, and his heirs and assigns for ever. (Huntbach MSS., Vol. II, *penes* Lord Wrottesley.)

<sup>3</sup> De Banco Roll, 33 Ed. III, Easter Term, m. 88, *dorso*, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XII, Part 1, p. 166.

<sup>4</sup> Huntbach MSS., Vol. II, *penes* Lord Wrottesley.



nothing beyond reprises, and there was there a garden of which the herbage and fruit were worth 6*l.* annually, and there was there a fish-pond worth 12*l.* annually, and there were there 20 acres of land of which each acre was worth 4*l.* annually, and there were there 4 acres of meadow of which each acre was worth 12*l.* annually; and there was there a park of which the herbage was worth 2*s.* annually and no more, because the said manor was divided into five parts, and there were there of rents of assize which were worth 9*s.* annually, and there was there of herbage which was worth 2*s.* annually; and they stated that the said John held on the same date at Whiston a messuage and 15 acres of land and 2 acres of meadow which were worth 10*s.* annually beyond reprises; and they stated that the said John held no other lands or tenements in co. Stafford in fee. The Sheriff was directed to deliver the said lands and tenements to the executors therein named to be held by them according to the form of the statute until the debt of £30 and their expenses were defrayed.<sup>1</sup>

The share mentioned in this extent cannot be the original *Whyston* share, for (as will be seen later) this share had been settled upon Sir John and his wife Elizabeth and the heirs of their bodies with remainders over: Elizabeth was at this time still alive, and after her death the share devolved in accordance with the settlement. It was certainly neither the *Champion* nor the *Trumwyn* share. Nor can it well be the *Fouleshurst* share, the reversion of which seems also to have been purchased by Sir John de Whyston; for Margaret Fouleshurst was then still living, and several years later, in 1366, she brought an action in respect of her share. It must therefore have been the *Foljambe* share, which as the inheritance of the eldest sister included, as might have been expected, the manor house.

Sir John de Whyston had by his wife Elizabeth de Weston one son Nicholas, who married Margaret the daughter and heir of Sir William Trussell, knight,<sup>2</sup> but died young shortly after his

<sup>1</sup> De Banco Roll, Mich. 37 Ed. III, m. 120, extracted in "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 33.

<sup>2</sup> We have not succeeded in ascertaining Canon Bridgeman's authority for this statement, which occurs several times in his MSS. This Sir William Trussell is sometimes called of Cablesdon and sometimes of Acton Trussell co. Stafford, but he must not be confounded with his nephew of the same name, who was the head of the family, and to whom both these manors really belonged. The pedigree given in Dugdale's Warwickshire (p. 716) is quite accurate in this respect. Sir William Trussell, the father of Margaret de Whyston, was the younger brother of





father. As we find that Margaret enjoyed the *Poljumbc* share for her life, and that subject to her life interest this share descended to the heir of Sir John, we may safely conclude that this share was settled by Sir John upon his son Nicholas and daughter in law Margaret for their lives with remainder to his own right heirs. If such settlement were made after the Thursday before Easter 32 Ed. III (1358), the date of the acknowledgment of the judgment debt in the suit by the executors of John de Lee, it would be quite consistent with the return made by the Sheriff in that action, for under the Statute of Westminster the Second (13 Ed. I, c. 18) the judgment debt became a charge upon the land, which would prevail over any subsequent settlement.

The date of Nicholas de Whyston's death, as found by an inquisition returned on the oath of a jury in the suit of the Abbot of Burton *versus* Edmund Giffard of Chylynton and Adam de Peshale for the custody of the land and heir of Nicholas,<sup>1</sup> is given as the Monday after the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist 39 Ed. III (24 June 1365), but this must be either a clerical error, perhaps for 35 Ed. III (1361) which would be during the period of the second great pestilence of the reign of Edward III lasting from 15 August 1361 to 3 May 1362,<sup>2</sup> or else a mistake of the jurors, for in Hilary term 36 Ed. III (1362)

Sir John Trussell of Cublesdon and Aeton Trussell, and he died on 20 July 1363, leaving his daughter Margaret aged 14, and then the wife of Fulk de Pembrugge, his heir (Inq. 37 Ed. III, No. 69): he died seised of the manors of Eton and Shottesbroke co. Berks. and other lands in the counties of Berks. and Beds. (*Ibid.*) His nephew Sir William Trussell, the son of Sir John Trussell, was a person of considerable importance in the time of King Edward III, and served with distinction at the battle of Poitiers (Dugdale's Warwickshire, *ubi sup.*; Pat. Roll, 41 Ed. III, Part 2, m. 2). He was dead in 3 Ric. II (1379-80), leaving his granddaughter Elizabeth, the daughter of Alured Trussell by his wife Katherine, who was the daughter of the said Sir William Trussell, his heir, then 8 years of age. (Welsh Records, Chester Inquisitions, 3 Ric. II, No. 1.) Margaret, the wife of Sir Fulk de Pembrugge, eventually succeeded on the death of Elizabeth Trussell, her first cousin twice removed, to the manor of Cublesdon and the other family estates: the only inquisitions on her death now extant are those taken under the writs to the Escheators of the counties of Berks. and Chester (Inq. 22 Ric. II, No. 102; Inq. 1 Hen. IV, No. 15; Welsh Records, Chester Inquisitions, 22 Ric. II, No. 10, and 2 Hen. IV, No. 10), but the manors of Cublesdon and Aeton Trussell co. Stafford are mentioned in the inquisition taken on the death of her second husband Sir Fulk de Pembrugge. (Inq. 10 Hen. IV, No. 45.)

<sup>1</sup> Plea Rolls, de Banco, Easter 44 Ed. III, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 79.

<sup>2</sup> *Ex inf.* Maj.-Gen. the Hon. George Wrottesley.





Margaret, *formerly* wife of Nicholas son of John de Whiston, sued Adam de Peshale and Elizabeth his wife for cutting down her trees at Weston under Luzeyerd and mowing and carrying away her grass to the value of £20. The defendants did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain and produce them on the Quindene of Easter.<sup>1</sup>

Elizabeth de Peshale, one of the defendants in this action, was the widow of Sir John de Whyston who by this time had married her second husband Adam de Peshale. The fact of this second marriage is clearly proved by the proceedings in the suit between John Giffard and Adam de Peshale respecting lands at Whyston given in the Assize Roll of 2 Ric. II.<sup>2</sup>

Margaret de Whyston was before 20 July 1363<sup>3</sup> married to her second husband Sir Fulk de Pembrugge of Tong co. Salop, knight, although still only 14 years of age, and she died without issue many years afterwards, namely, on 10 June 1399<sup>4</sup> (not 11 June 1402, as erroneously stated in Dugdale's Warwickshire, p. 716).

Elizabeth de Peshale is said to have died in the year 1366.<sup>5</sup> In November 1369 Adam de Peshale was already married to another wife also called Elizabeth,<sup>6</sup> the daughter and coheir of

<sup>1</sup> De Banco Roll, Hil. 36 Ed. III, m. 30, *dorso*. "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 20.

<sup>2</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 148.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 37 Ed. III, No. 69.

<sup>4</sup> Inq. 22 Ric. II, No. 102; Inq. 1 Hen. IV, No. 15.

<sup>5</sup> Monument in Weston Church (not however contemporaneous, see *ante* p. 14).

<sup>6</sup> The daughters and coheirs of Sir Philip ap Rees, knight, who died 4 August 1369, were Elizabeth aged 30 and more on 9 Sept. 1369 and then the wife or widow of Sir Henry Mortimer of Chelmarsh co. Salop, and Mabel, then aged 28 and more, the wife of Sir Hugh de Wrottesley, K.G., by whom she had a son then born. Mabel Wrottesley survived her father only 40 days, and her child died 3 weeks after her (Inq. 43 Ed. III, Part 1, No. 4. In one inquisition dated 9 Sept. Elizabeth is called the wife of Henry Mortimer, in another dated 14 Sept. she is called his widow.) Joan, the widow of Sir Philip ap Rees, died in August of the following year, by which time her only surviving daughter and heir Elizabeth had married Adam de Peshale (Inq. 44 Ed. III, No. 3). Elizabeth inherited the manor of Ideshale (Shifnal) which had been settled on her father and mother and the heirs of their bodies: the manor of Talgarth Engleys in the Marches of Wales descended to the two coheirs subject to their mother's dower. (Orig. Roll, 43 Ed. III, m. 11). Elizabeth had issue born alive by Adam de Peshale, but such issue died (Inq. 7 Hen. V, No. 64), and there is no descendant living from either of these coheirs. The date of the Peshale marriage must have been between 22 Oct. and 10 Nov. 1369 (Inq. 43 Ed. III, Part 1, No. 4, and Orig. Roll, 43 Ed. III, m. 11).



Sir Philip ap Rees, knight, and widow of Sir Henry Mortimer of Chelmarsh co. Salop, knight, who was Lady of Ideshale (or Shifnal) in her own right. And at Easter 47 Ed. III (1373) we find him suing William son of William Russell for forcibly entering his free warren at Ideshale and taking his hares, rabbits, pheasants and partridges.<sup>1</sup>

In or about the year 1373 Adam de Peshale bought up Margaret de Whyston's (now Pembrugge) life interest in the *Foljambe* share, as well as an interest for his own life in another share of the manor (the *Fouleshurst* share), and accordingly by deed dated at Weston Monday next . . . the Feast of St. James the Apostle, 47 Ed. III (July 1373), John de Cokeslone parson of the Church of Weston, and Stephen de Bromley, parson of the Church of Blemenhull, concede to Adam de Peshale the fifth part of the manor of Weston with the appurtenances *which is called Marjorie's part de ffouleshurst*, to hold to the same Adam for term of his life: they also concede to the same Adam another fifth part of the same manor with the appurtenances *which had been Margaret's, late the wife of Nicholas son of Sir John de Whyston, knight*, to hold to the same Adam and his heirs and assigns during the life of the same Margaret.<sup>2</sup>

Subject to the life interest of Margaret de Pembrugge, the widow of Nicholas de Whyston, by this deed conveyed to Adam de Peshale, the reversion of the *Foljambe* share had on the death of Nicholas de Whyston in or about 1361, and of his aunt Agnes Giffard, the sister of Sir John de Whyston, in or about 1366, devolved upon John Giffard as heir at law of Sir John de Whyston.<sup>3</sup>

A dispute had arisen about this time between Sir Adam de Peshale and Sir William Trussell<sup>4</sup> concerning two other shares of the manor, namely the *Champion* and *Whyston* shares, which on the death of Elizabeth Lanfant, the last surviving issue of William de Trumwyn in 1375, ought under the settlements and purchase hereafter mentioned to have devolved upon Adam de

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 100.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 12b.

<sup>3</sup> John Giffard was the son of Edmund Giffard of Chillington by Agnes, the sister of Sir John de Whyston, and therefore after the death of Nicholas de Whyston without issue, and of his mother Agnes, he became heir to both father and son (Assize Roll, 2 Ric. II, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 148).

<sup>4</sup> Not Margaret de Pembrugge's father, who had then been dead some ten years, but her first cousin Sir William Trussell of Cublesdon.



Peshale and his wife, but these two shares had been taken into the hands of the King with the other lands of Elizabeth Lanfant, and the custody thereof granted to Sir William Trussell at a rent of £10 18s. 4d.<sup>1</sup> The dispute seems to have extended also to the *Fouleshurst* share, in which Adam had acquired, or purported to acquire, a life interest under the above mentioned grant by Cokeslone and Bromley. To put an end to these disputes a formal accord was taken at Salop on Tuesday in the Feast of St. Dionise, 49 Ed. III (9 October 1375), between Sir William Trussell of the one part and Sir Richard de Peshale,<sup>2</sup> Adam de Peshale, and Thomas Gech,<sup>2</sup> of the other part, in presence of their chief lord the Earl of Stafford,<sup>3</sup> Sir Nichol his son, John de la Pole, David de Calvey, Robert Burgulon, and others, whereby it was agreed that, as to those two parts of the manors of Weston-under-Lizard and Newton near Blithfield, with their appurtenances, into five parts divided, concerning which two parts a fine was levied between the said Adam and Stephen de Bromley, clerk, and the which two parts had been taken into the King's hands on the death of Elizabeth, daughter and heir of William Trumwyn, the said Adam should sue livery thereof out of the King's hands without any hindrance from Sir William Trussell, or any other on his part. Moreover, the said Sir William, out of respect for the said Earl, had delivered the patent he had received from the King into the hands of the said Earl, and was willing that the said Adam should receive all the profit he could of right have out of the said two parts, so that the said Adam should guarantee him against (?) loss of the rent reserved in the said patent (*issint que le dit Adam lui saue saunz pert de la ferme reserve en la dit patent*); and the said Adam had granted that it should be lawful for John Giffard, as cousin and heir of Sir John de Whiston, to enter upon the fifth part of the park of Weston and the fifth part of the advowson of the Church of Weston, and of two places of land, that is to say, Merly ruding under Merleyhey and Williams ruding in the Park, as his heritage, descended to him by the death of the said Sir John.

<sup>1</sup> Orig. Roll, 49 Ed. III, m. 8.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Richard de Peshale was Adam's elder brother. Thomas Gech de Newport married Isabel, Adam's sister: he was Lord of High Ercall, and direct ancestor of the Newports, Earls of Bradford. (See *post*, Sec. IV, The Newports.)

<sup>3</sup> It must have been with respect to lands at Blymhill that the Earl of Stafford is styled their chief lord, for the Earl of Arundel was chief lord of the fees of Weston and Newton.





Also the said Sir William had assented that the said Adam should hold peaceably the fifth part of the manor of Weston, *which lately belonged to Thomas foljambe*, for the life of Margaret, who had been the wife of Nicholas de Whiston; and the said Adam had granted that it should be lawful for the said John Giffard, and his heirs, to enter upon the aforesaid fifth part immediately after the decease of the said Margaret, without disturbance from the said Adam, or any one else on his part; and if it should seem to the said John Giffard, when he came to his full age, that he had a right to demand more of any parcel of the manor of Weston aforesaid, he should proceed in such manner as the law allowed, and the said Adam should defend his right in the same manner; and the said Sir William and Sir Richard de Peshale had assented that they would not interfere in private nor openly touching that suit; and the said Sir William had granted that he would not give any aid to the said John Giffard during his minority to trouble, aggrieve or implead the said Adam with respect to that fifth part of the manor of Weston, *which was lately that of Matthew de fouleshurst and Margaret his wife, except that which was granted to the said John by this accord.*<sup>1</sup>

This document is of the greatest importance and throws much light on the devolution of the various shares of the manor. Its precise bearing will be better appreciated when the title to the other shares have been traced, but its general nature may here be briefly indicated. It deals with four only of the five shares: the fifth, which was shortly afterwards purchased by Sir William Trussell, was then vested in the heir of the Trunwvyns. Of these four shares the two first mentioned in the accord were the shares originally belonging to Isolda Champion and Elizabeth Whyston: these had been purchased by Adam de Peshale from Stephen de Bromley, the ultimate remainderman under the settlements of those shares. Another share, the *Foljambe* share, Adam was also entitled to during the life of Margaret de Whyston (Pembrugge), the reversion belonging to John Giffard. The remaining share, the *Fouleshurst* share, was claimed by both Adam de Peshale and John Giffard, and a temporary arrangement was made for a division of this share between the rival claimants

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 28b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 77b. (from orig. at Weston). This document is in Norman French, and to it are appended four seals, of which the two first only can be deciphered. The first is fretty (for Trussell); the second a chevron between 3 leopard's faces (?), with the legend SIG TUOME GECH.



until Giffard had attained his majority, when their respective rights could be decided at law.

Having thus secured his right against the claims of Sir William Trussell, and being left in temporary possession of part of the disputed share, Adam de Peshale, now a knight,<sup>1</sup> next proceeds, as soon as John Giffard the Whyston heir comes of age, to buy up all his interests in the manor of Weston.

Accordingly, by deed dated at Weston-under-Luseyerd on the Thursday after Easter 3 Ric. II (30 March 1380), John fitzEdmond Giffard of Chillington grants a lease to Sir Adam de Peshale, knight, of a place of land in Weston-under-Luseyerd, called 'Marleight Field, to have and to hold to the said Adam, his heirs and assigns, for a term of 100 years, the reserved rent being an annual payment of 2s. 2d.<sup>2</sup>

On the same day, by a deed of indenture dated at the same place, and made between Sir Adam de Peshale, knight, and Elizabeth his wife of the one part and John fitzEsmond Giffard de Chillington of the other part, the said Adam and Elizabeth granted to the said John Giffard all their lands, rents, tenements, and services, with the appurtenances, in Stretton-juxta-Horsebrook, to have and to hold to the said John, his heirs and assigns, in exchange for the *site of the manor* of Weston-under-Luysyord, with the gardens adjacent to it, *the two<sup>3</sup> . . . of the park of the same manor, into five parts divided, which Sir John de Whyston lately purchased*, the fifth part of the meadow of the same manor, and all the lands and tenements which William Broun and John del Stanes<sup>4</sup> held in the same manor on the day of making these indentures, and for a certain toft in the said manor which Hugh le Carter<sup>4</sup> lately held, a certain stank in the said manor called

<sup>1</sup> The first occasion on which we find him described as a knight or chivaler was about a year before this time, shortly before Easter 1379 (Assize Roll, 2 Ric. II, "Staff Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 148). Possibly he was knighted on the occasion of the King's coronation, which he is known to have attended.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 29b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 81 (from orig. at Chillington).

<sup>3</sup> *Sic* in Add. MS. 18667. In Harl. MS. 5816 this word as well as the following one is left in blank. The two shares in question were of course the Foljambe and the Foulshurst shares.

<sup>4</sup> William Brown *cultor*, Johannes in the Stones, and Hugo Carter *serviens monialium*, are all mentioned in the famous Poll Tax of the following year 4 Ric. II (1381), which caused the rebellion of Wat Tyler ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVII, p. 203). William Brown was one of the tenants of the lands forming part of the Foulshurst share (see De Banco Roll, Easter 29 Ed. III, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XII, Part 1, p. 132 quoted *inf.* p. 64).



Pikemore, and divers parcels of lands in the same manor, lying in Williams rudings, Marleghey, Sparkelee, Strete forlonge, Priore furlong, Rowmorfelde, Blakemerruding, Wolfulls forlong, Leeroft, Hilderethbruke, fyrrthbruche, Wodelonde, Hoke-juxta-Shorlegh, and all the common of pasture in the same manor, with the appurtenances, which were late of Sir John de Whyston, uncle of the aforesaid John Giffard, whose heir he is, the which site of the manor, gardens, lands, and tenements the said John Giffard granted to the said Sir Adam and Elizabeth his wife, to hold to them and the heirs of the body of the said Adam, with remainder to Isabel his sister and the heirs of her body, with remainder to the right heirs of the said Adam, in exchange for all the lands in Stretton, rendering therefor to the said John Giffard, and his heirs, 16*d.* *per annum*, payable in equal portions at the Feasts of St. Michael and the Annunciation.<sup>1</sup>

Thus the *Foljemb* share (as well as substantially the whole of the *Fouleshurst* share) became vested in Sir Adam de Peshale and his second wife Elizabeth for an estate of inheritance which upon their death would devolve upon Adam's issue by any wife.

It will be convenient to speak next of the *Fouleshurst* share, though it is probable that Margaret was not the second sister.

Margaret de Weston's first husband was Robert le Say, as appears by an extract from the Plea Rolls, de Banco, Mich. 44 Ed. III (1370).<sup>2</sup> He was living and one of the witnesses to a Weston deed in 1346,<sup>3</sup> but he must have died before or soon after her father Sir John de Weston who was dead in May 1349, for in the same year (1349) we find her married to her second husband Matthew de Fouleshurst.<sup>4</sup> There can be no doubt that her first husband was the same Robert de Say, of Morton Say co. Salop, who died in 1349, leaving a son and heir Robert then aged 8.<sup>5</sup> Robert de Say (the son) attained his majority in 1362, and from the writ to the escheator of Salop for the proof of his age and its indorsement we learn that the custody of the infant's lands had been granted to Matthew de Fouleshurst during his minority, and also that the latter had died before the indorsement

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 27b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 80 (from orig. at Weston). This deed is in Norman French and the seal appended bears the Peshale arms.

<sup>2</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 84.

<sup>3</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 71b. (cited *ante*, p. 42).

<sup>4</sup> Fin. Cone. 23 Ed. III, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, p. 163.

<sup>5</sup> Inq. 23 Ed. III Part 2, No. 14. Inquisition held 9 Jan. 1350.





was made on the writ, leaving his wife Margaret and Thomas de Say his executors.<sup>1</sup> The grant of the custody of the infant's land to Margaret's second husband suggests the inference that the infant was her own son, but the omission of all reference to her or to Robert de Say in the two settlements of the Champion and Whyston shares mentioned hereafter makes rather against this inference.

Matthew de Fouleshurst was probably the second son of Richard de Fouleshurst of Edlleston co. Chester, who had four sons, viz. Richard, who carried on the line of Edlleston, Matthew, of whom more anon, Robert, who became lord of Crewe and Barthomley in right of his wife and whose descendants eventually succeeded also to the inheritance of the Fouleshursts of Edlleston, and John.

Matthew, the second son, seems to have inherited the manor of Newbold near Wich Malbank co. Chester, for in 22 Ed. III (1348) he had permission from the King as Earl of Chester to encroach upon a certain lane which led from the bounds of Edlleston to the river of the mill of Shyrardesbrugge so as to extend his manor of Newbold.<sup>2</sup> In the Pleas taken at Chester 26 Ed. III (1352) Matthew de Fouleshurst and Robert his brother were sued by the Prince for divers transgressions.<sup>3</sup> The manor of Newbold was apparently still in the possession of Matthew de Fouleshurst in 1361,<sup>4</sup> and after his death it seems to have descended to the Fouleshursts of Crewe, the descendants of his younger brother Robert, as it occurs in several inquisitions of that branch of the family; but there were lands in Wodecot which were granted by Matthew in fee tail in 1346, the reversion of which on Matthew's death devolved upon his elder brother Richard or his descendants; and from an inquisition concerning this reversion taken in the reign of Henry VI it is clear that Matthew died without issue, and that his brother Richard was his heir.<sup>5</sup>

Returning now to the *Fouleshurst* share of the manor of Weston, we find that on the morrow of St. Martin, 23 Ed. III (12 Nov. 1349), a fine was levied between Matthew de

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 36 Ed. III, Part. 1, No. 148. The writ is dated 28 May 36 Ed. III (1362).

<sup>2</sup> Welsh Records, Chester Plea Rolls, 21 & 22 Ed. III, m. 30 d.

<sup>3</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVI, p. 11.

<sup>4</sup> Ormerod's Cheshire, 2nd Ed. (Helsby), Vol. III., p. 386, citing Chester Recog. Ro., 35 & 36 Ed. III, m. 2.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 384, citing Chester Recog. Ro., 13 & 14 Hen. VI, m. 8.





Fouleshurst and Margaret his wife complainants and David de Calvilegh and Ralph del Hull deforciantes of the fifth part of the manor of Weston-under-Lusyerd and Newton near Blithefeld and the advowson of the fifth part of the church of the same manor of Weston and the advowson of the fifth part of two parts of the Church of Blumenhull. Matthew and Margaret acknowledged the said fifth part and advowsons to be the right of David, for which David and Ralph granted them to Matthew and Margaret and their issue, and failing such issue to remain to the right heirs of Margaret for ever.<sup>1</sup>

By a subsequent fine levied on the octaves of St. Martin, 25 Ed. III (1351), the fifth part of the manor of Weston, there described as Weston-under-Bruwod, was conveyed by the above-mentioned Matthew and Margaret to Ralph del Hull, who granted it to Matthew de Fouleshurst and Margaret his wife and their issue, with remainder to the right heirs of Matthew for ever.<sup>2</sup>

Matthew de Fouleshurst died about 1362, as already mentioned: in 1366 Margaret, formerly wife of Matthew de Fouleshurst, recovered a toft, 12 acres of land and six acres of meadow in Weston near Blumenhulle, which she claimed against Adam de Peshale, the defendant making default.<sup>3</sup>

In the year 1373, as we have already seen,<sup>4</sup> the fifth part of the manor of Weston with its appurtenances, *which was called Marjorie's part de ffouleshurst*, was granted by John de Cokeslone and Stephen de Bromley to Adam de Peshale for term of his life.<sup>5</sup> But we gather from the accord of 1375, already quoted at length, that this grant was to some extent at any rate disputed by John Giffard the Whyston heir, and that under the arrangement then made Giffard was to be allowed to enter upon one fifth of the park and advowson and two places of land, Adam de Peshale retaining possession of the rest of this share, at any rate until Giffard attained his majority. The strong probability is that the reversion of this share had been purchased by Sir John de Whyston as well as the *Poljambe* share, but the former being an interest in reversion only it was not mentioned in the extent returned by the Sheriff in the suit by the executors of John de Lee; for a reversionary

<sup>1</sup> Fin. Conc., 23 Ed. III, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, p. 163.

<sup>2</sup> Fin. Conc., 25 Ed. III, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, p. 165.

<sup>3</sup> De Banco Roll, Mich. 40 Ed. III ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 58, where the acreage of land is erroneously given as 200. The word is "*duodecim*" not "*ducentum*").

<sup>4</sup> *ante*, p. 57.

<sup>5</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 12b.



interest in land could not be delivered in execution or reached by creditors. On the death of Nicholas de Whyston and of his own mother Agnes Giffard this reversion as well as the Foljambe reversion descended to John Giffard. How long Margaret Fouleshurst survived we do not know: she was living in 1370,<sup>1</sup> and must have died between that time and 1375 (the date of the accord). When John Giffard came of age, his interest in both the Foljambe and Fouleshurst shares were included in the exchange of 1380, with the exception of Marleighey Field, which was demised by John Giffard to Adam de Peshale for a term of 100 years as already noticed.<sup>2</sup>

Besides the dealings with the share of the manor there were also other transactions affecting the *Fouleshurst* share, or rather part of the lands belonging to it, which should now be noticed.

In 1355 the Sheriff had been ordered to produce William Broun, Robert de Weston, Thomas le Champion, and Isolda his wife, to acknowledge what right the said William claimed in four messuages, eight acres and half a virgate of land in Weston under Brewode, and what right the said Robert claimed in the fifth part of two messuages and half a virgate of land in the same vill, and what right the said Thomas and Isolda claimed in the fifth part of six messuages and four virgates of land in the same vill and in Stretton near Lappele, and likewise in the fifth part of the third part of the fourth part of the manor of Blomenhill, which Matthew de Fouleshurst and Margaret his wife had conceded by fine to Robert de Fouleshurst and Thomas de Say, and they did not appear. The Sheriff was therefore ordered to distrain and produce them on the morrow of St. John the Baptist.<sup>3</sup> From this it would seem that Thomas le Champion and Isolda, as well as William Broun and Robert de Weston, had become tenants of part of the Fouleshurst share of the lands at Weston.

By deed dated at Weston on the Monday next after the Feast of the translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, 32 Ed. III (7 July 1358), Thomas le Champion granted to Thomas le Faukener, his heirs and assigns, a place of land in Weston under Leszered which was called le Shepoffold with the houses standing thereon, the witnesses to the deed being Edmond Safard, Roger de Pichford,

<sup>1</sup> De Banco Roll, Mich. 44 Ed. III, m. 421, *dorso*. ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 84.)

<sup>2</sup> See *ante*, p. 60.

<sup>3</sup> De Banco Roll, Easter 29 Ed. III. ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XII, Part 1, p. 132.)



Richard de Brinton, Roger de Bathe, Robert de Weston, and others.<sup>1</sup>

Thomas le Champion was dead before Michaelmas 1360, leaving Isolda his widow,<sup>2</sup> and Isolda herself seems to have died before 1369 and probably before 1366. According to a pedigree of the Champions, written on the first page of the second volume of Lord Wrottesley's Huntbach MSS., Thomas le Champion died without issue, and his sisters, Isolda wife of Roger Congreve, Catherine wife of Geoffrye Congreve, and Matilda wife of Bentley, became his coheirs. Isolda Congreve probably died without issue before the date of the deed next referred to.

By deed dated at Stafford on the Tuesday next after the feast of St. Gregory, 40 Ed. III (18 March 1366), Henry de Jus and Maude his wife (who was probably identical with Matilda de Bentley)<sup>3</sup> and Geoffrey de Congreve and Katherine his wife ceded to Adam de Peshale all their lands and tenements with all their appurtenances which they had in the fee of Weston-under-Lezezherd, to hold for the term of his life, the rent reserved to the said Henry, Matilda, Geoffrey and Katherine, and the heirs of the said Maude and Katherine, being 6s. of gold or silver.<sup>4</sup> And by deed

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 13b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 76b. (from original at Weston).

<sup>2</sup> De Banco Roll, Mich. 34 Ed. III ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 15).

<sup>3</sup> There is some confusion between the name of Bentley and that of Jus (*alias* Vus, Pas, Pus, or Puis). In 38 & 39 Ed. III (1364-5) Henry de Jus and Geoffrey de Congreve appear together as suing others for trespass on their houses or lands in Stretton ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIV, Part 1, pp. 111, 120). And from a deed of 1 Ric. II, given in Vol. II of the Huntbach MSS., in which certain lands are settled upon William de Bentley and Alianore his wife and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder to the heirs of the body of the said William, with remainder to Nicholas de Rugeley, brother of the said William de Bentley, and the heirs of his body, with remainder to John Jus, brother of the said Nicholas de Rugeley, and the heirs of his body, it is clear that Bentley, Rugeley and Jus were all of the same family. Moreover in 42 Ed. III (1368) Henry de Jus sued John Newow the younger for forcibly breaking into his park at Rugeley, cutting his grass, and carrying away hay to the value of 40s. ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 68). And in 49 Ed. III (1369-70) Alice formerly wife of William Champion [*i.e.* the father of Thomas le Champion], Matilda formerly wife of Henry de Jus (Puis), and Geoffrey de Congreve and Katrine his wife, were sued together by Robert de Rigge and Isabella his wife in respect of dower claimed by Isabella out of certain lands in Stretton held by her former husband Robert Peverell ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 126, *cf.* p. 134).

<sup>4</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 24; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 77 (from original at Weston). This deed has three seals to it, one probably for either Bentley or Congreve, and two attached together, of which the lowest appears to be the Weston eagle, for the other coparcener. This life interest was probably purchased by Adam de Peshale





dated at Weston on the Thursday in the Feast of the Ascension 51 Ed. III (1377) Geoffrey de Congreve and Katherine his wife conceded to Adam de Peshale and Elizabeth his wife all the lands and tenements with the appurtenances in Weston under Losyort and Blumenhul *which were formerly Thomas le Champion's*, to hold to the said Adam and Elizabeth and the heirs of their bodies with remainder to Hugh le Mortimer, son of the said Elizabeth, and his heirs: the witnesses being William Trussell of Cublesdon and Richard de Peshale, knights, Roger de Langerūgg, William Adams of Stretton, and others.<sup>1</sup>

It is probable that Matilda or Maude, the other coheir of Thomas le Champion, had died without leaving issue before the execution of this deed, and that by it all Thomas le Champion's interest in the lands belonging to the *Fouleshurst* share passed to Adam de Peshale and his second wife Elizabeth (ap Rees).

Elizabeth, Sir Adam de Peshale's second wife, died before 1388, when we find him marrying his third wife Joyce, the daughter and coheir of Sir John de Bottetort and widow of Sir Baldwin Frevill.<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth de Peshale's previous death is mentioned in the Inquisition taken on the death of William Mortimer, her first husband's son and heir, in 1391,<sup>3</sup> but the exact date of her death is uncertain. It seems probable however that she died about the year 1384, when Adam de Peshale ceased to have the management of the Chelmarsh estates, which had belonged to her first husband Sir Henry de Mortimer and had been taken into the King's hands on account of the imbecility of his son William le Mortimer, and the custody of which had been granted by the King to Adam de Peshale in 1372.<sup>4</sup> It appears from the Inquisition taken on the death of Sir Adam de Peshale that there was issue born of his

shortly after the death of his first wife Elizabeth de Weston, who is stated in the monument in Weston Church to have died in 1366: before the deed of 1377 next stated he had married another wife Elizabeth ap Rees, whose son by a former marriage is placed next in remainder in default of issue of Adam and his wife.

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 23b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 79 (from original at Weston).

<sup>2</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 83 (given *post*, pp. 89, 90).

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 15 Ric. II, No. 46. As William le Mortimer was over 26 years old at the death of his grandfather Sir Hugh Mortimer in 1372, and Elizabeth ap Rees is described as only "30 and more" at the death of her father in 1369 (Inq. 46 Ed. III, No. 41, and Inq. 43 Ed. III, 1st part, No. 4), it is presumable that he was not her own son. Her own son Hugh Mortimer is described as 24 years old and more at the death of his brother William in 1391.

<sup>4</sup> Eyton's "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. II, p. 47, n.; Orig. Roll, 46 Ed. III, m. 10.



marriage with this his second wife, but that such issue did not survive.<sup>1</sup> Hugh Mortimer, Elizabeth's son by her first marriage, was killed at the battle of Shrewsbury on 21 July 1403, and left no issue, his first cousin once removed, John Cressy, being his next heir.<sup>2</sup> How his interest in the lands at Weston under the limitations of the deed of 1377 became vested in the descendants of Adam de Peshale does not appear, but the latter probably bought up his step-son's interest.

The title to the other three shares of the manor of Weston, namely the *Champion*, *Trumwyn*, and *Whyston* shares, being more or less connected, it will be convenient to deal with them together.

Thomas le Champion, the husband of Isolda de Weston, was the son of William le Champion of Little Sardon; the husband of another sister was Sir William Trumwyn of Camoock, knight; and Elizabeth, as we have seen, married first Sir John de Whyston of Whyston and Little Sardon, knight, and secondly Adam de Peshale.

Soon after the sisters had succeeded to their inheritance settlements were made of the *Champion* and *Whyston* shares respectively.

By deed dated at Weston on the Wednesday after the feast of St. Barnabas, 24 Ed. III (16 June 1350), Isolda, daughter of Sir John de Weston, knight, gave to Stephen Bromley, parson of the Church of Blumenhull, all her purparty of the manors of Weston, Newton and Blumenhull, together with all her purparty of all lands, tenements, etc., in Stretton, Admendeston, Great and Little Heywood, etc., which purparties had descended to her by hereditary succession after the death of Robert son of Thomas her brother, one of whose heirs she was.<sup>3</sup>

This is followed by another deed, dated at Blumenhull on Wednesday next before the feast of St. Margaret the Virgin the same year (14 July 1350), whereby Stephen de Bromley gave to Thomas le Champion and Isolda his wife, daughter of John de Weston, the fifth part of the manors of Weston and Newton, and all his part of the manor of Blumenhull and of all his lands, tenements, etc., in Stretton, Admendeston, Magna Hayworde and Parva Heywood, which he had of the gift of the said Isolda, to hold to the said

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 7 Hen. V, No. 64.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. 4 Hen. IV, No. 28.

<sup>3</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 15b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 74b. (from original at Weston); Huntbach MSS., Vol. II (*penes* Lord Wrottesley).



Thomas and Isolda and the heirs begotten between them, with remainder to the heirs of the body of Isolda, with remainder to her sister Elizabeth and the heirs of her body, with remainder to William, son of Sir William Trunwyn, knight, and the heirs of his body, with remainder to the said Stephen and his heirs for ever.<sup>1</sup> The witnesses to both these deeds were John de Ipstones, John de Whyston, Richard Leveson of Wolverhampton, Roger de Pichford, William Broun of Weston, and others.

Meanwhile, by another deed, also dated at Weston on the Wednesday next after the feast of St. Barnabas, 24 Ed. III (16 June 1350), Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John de Weston, knight, gave to Stephen de Bromleye, parson of the church of Blumenhull, all her purparty of the manors of Weston and Newton with all their appurtenances, which had fallen to her by the death of Robert son of her brother Thomas, one of whose heirs she was: the witnesses to this deed also being John de Ipstones, John lord of Whiston, Roger de Pychford, Richard Leveson of Wolverhampton, William Broun of Weston, and others.<sup>2</sup>

And this is followed in the same way by a deed dated at Weston on the Sunday next after the feast of SS. Peter and Paul, 24 Ed. III (4 July 1350), whereby Stephen de Bromley granted to John de Whyston and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir John de Weston, knight, the fifth part of the manors of Weston and Newton, and all his part of the manor of Blumenhull and of all his lands and tenements, etc., in Admondeston and Great and Little Haywode, and also all his part of the reversion of all his messuages and lands, etc., which Isolda daughter of Sir John de Weston held of him for term of her life in Weston, Blumenhull and Stretton, etc., which tenements he had of the gift and feoffment of the said Elizabeth, to hold to the said John and Elizabeth and the heirs begotten between them, with remainder to the heirs of the body of the said Elizabeth, with remainder to Isolda, sister of the said Elizabeth, and the heirs of her body, with remainder to William, son of Sir William Trunwyn, knight, and the heirs of his body, with remainder to the aforesaid Stephen and his heirs for ever: the witnesses being John de Ipstones, Thomas le Champion, Richard Leveson of Wolverhampton, Roger de Pichford, and others.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Huntbach MSS., Vol. II; Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 15b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 75b. (from original at Weston).

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 15; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 75 (from original at Weston).

<sup>3</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 13; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 76 (from original at Weston).





As Isolda and Elizabeth are each described in her deed of conveyance to Stephen de Bromley of 16 June 1350 simply as daughter of Sir John de Weston, and neither Thomas le Champion nor John de Whyston joined in the deeds, it is to be inferred that these ladies were both then unmarried, and that the two settlements were executed on their respective marriages. Stephen de Bromley, the trustee and ultimate remainderman in fee simple under both these settlements, was the brother of Isabella de Weston, Sir John's first wife, and uncle of the Weston coheireses.

As already mentioned, Thomas le Champion died before Michaelmas 1360, and his wife Isolda probably before 1366, without issue: Sir John de Whyston died in 1359, and his wife Elizabeth, after marrying Adam de Peshale as her second husband, died, probably in 1366,<sup>1</sup> also without issue.<sup>2</sup>

Sir William Trumwyn of Cannock, the husband of the Weston coheirress, died 27 September 1349<sup>3</sup>: she herself had probably died some time previously, for by the inquisition taken on the death of her husband it appears that he left a widow named Alice.<sup>4</sup> As he does not seem to have held any lands or tenements in Weston by the courtesy of England it is presumable that his wife did not live to inherit her share of the manor of Weston. The issue of this marriage was a son William, named as a remainderman in the above mentioned settlements, and a daughter Isabel, who became the wife successively of William Reynald, John Saleway, and Nicholas Rugeley.

William Trumwyn, the son, succeeded to his mother's share of the Weston inheritance. The inquisition taken on the death of his father Sir William Trumwyn, which was held on the Monday after the feast of SS. Peter and Paul, 24 Ed. III (5 July 1350), states that William (the son) was 19 years of age on the feast of

<sup>1</sup> Monument in Weston Church.

<sup>2</sup> See *post*, pp. 97, 98.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 24 Ed. III, No. 52. The constant recurrence of the same Christian name among the Trumwyns and the early deaths of the heads of this family make it difficult to identify them, and evidently misled the great Staffordshire antiquaries, Edeswick and Humbach, who have omitted a generation in the descent; and they have been followed by Shaw, who gives an erroneous account of them in a printed but unpublished page of his History of Staffordshire.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* It is possible that this Alice may have been the Weston coheirress, but not very probable; for the Weston coheirress had a half sister named Alice; moreover she was herself apparently dead in 1350, or she would have been mentioned in the settlements, whereas we find an Alice widow of Sir William Trumwyn, knight still living in 1302 (Humbach MSS., Vol. II).





St. Michael last past,<sup>1</sup> so that he should have attained his majority at Michaelmas 1351. It appears however that on 28 November 1351 letters of presentation were granted by the King and addressed to R. Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield to present Richard de Tissynton, clerk, to the Church of Weston under Loseyerd in the King's gift by reason of the minority of William Trumwyn who was in the King's custody.<sup>2</sup> Probably William Trumwyn had not yet had an opportunity of proving his age. As a matter of fact it was not his turn to present, and, as we have already seen, the King's claim appears to have been rejected.<sup>3</sup> William Trumwyn died on Tuesday the feast of St. Edmund the Confessor (16 November) 1361. By inquisition, taken at Penkridge on 15 March 1362, it was found that he held *inter alia* 60s. of yearly rent at Weston and 40s. of yearly rent at Newton of the Earl of Arundel: William his son was found to be his next heir and aged 18 weeks and more.<sup>4</sup>

By an inquisition, taken at the same place a few days earlier, namely on 3 March 1362, on the death of his kinsman Roger Trumwyn of Cannoek, it was found that the said Roger, who died on the Sunday next after the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle last past (5 December 1361), leaving his sister Katherine wife of John Musard his next heir, held in his demesne as of fee certain lands of *William son and heir of William Trumwyn*, who held of the King *in capite*, being under age and in the King's custody.<sup>5</sup>

After this we hear nothing more of the infant William Trumwyn. He probably died soon afterwards, and was succeeded by his brother John son of William Trumwyn, who must have been either a twin with William or else a posthumous child, and who also died during his minority in October 1369. He is found to have held *three fifths of Weston under Lusyerd and three fifths of Newton near Blithefeld*, and 20s. in Blymenhull, in the county of Stafford.<sup>6</sup> In another inquisition, held two years later, his holding in Weston and Newton is more fully described as one messuage, one dovehouse, 12 acres of

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 24 Ed. III, No. 52.

<sup>2</sup> Pat. Roll, 25 Ed. III, Part 3, m. 7.

<sup>3</sup> See *ante*, pp. 44, 45.

<sup>4</sup> Inq. 36 Ed. III, Part 2, 1st numbers, No. 59.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* The lands so held by Roger Trumwyn were a place of land called the Moss at Hustoden (Hixton) and another place of land at Hednesford called the Plashe. They were held by the service of paying an annual rent of 13s. 4d. and finding a greyhound's collar.

<sup>6</sup> Inq. 43 Ed. III, Part 2, 1st numbers, No. 35.



land, 4 places of meadow and 25(?)s. of rent of assize in Weston under Louseyord and 20 acres of land, 5 acres of pasture, 20s. rent of assize and a water mill in Neuton near Blythefeld, held of the Earl of Arundel by petit serjeanty, which lands etc. in the vills of Weston and Neuton were worth . . . 13s. 4d.<sup>1</sup> His next heir was found to be his sister Elizabeth, described in the earlier inquisition as 15 years of age and more on 8 December 1369, and in the later one as 17 years of age and more on 12 June 1371, when she was already married to Roger Lanfant but had no issue by him.

It will be observed that by this time the prior limitations in the settlements of the *Champion* and *Whyston* shares had been exhausted, and accordingly John Trumwyn had succeeded to these two shares as tenant in tail under the settlements, being also entitled by descent to the original *Trumwyn* share in fee simple. On his death all three shares devolved upon his sister. Elizabeth Lanfant did not survive her brother many years. She died on 20 July 1375<sup>2</sup> without issue, and all the issue of William Trumwyn, the son of Sir William Trumwyn and the Weston coheiress and the remainderman in tail under the settlements of the *Champion* and *Whyston* shares, being now exhausted, the ultimate remainder to Stephen de Bromley in these settlements took effect. But before this happened, as we shall presently see, Adam de Peshale had acquired by fine from Stephen de Bromley the reversion in these two shares. The original *Trumwyn* share passed on the death of Elizabeth Lanfant to her heir at law, namely her aunt Isabel, then the wife of William Reynald.

The inquisition on her death, which was taken at Cannoek on 28 August 1375, and which describes her as Elizabeth daughter and heir of William Trumwyn, is a full one. The jurors find that she held of the King *in capite* a messuage and a virgate of land in Cannoekbury by grand serjeanty, viz. by the service of keeping

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 45 Ed. III, No. 52. A comparison of this later description with that of other shares of the manor of Weston suggests that it represents something more like one-fifth instead of three-fifths of the manor. Probably a partial explanation of this may be that the earlier inquisition had omitted to take note that part of the Trumwyn share was held in dower by Margery, the widow of William Trumwyn and mother of John, who subsequently and without the licence of the King was married to Robert Massy (Pipe Roll, 49 Ed. III, Stafford; Memoranda Roll, L. T., 51 Ed. III, *inter fines Mich.* term).

<sup>2</sup> Inq. 49 Ed. III, Part 2, 1st numbers, No. 49. The writ of *d. c. e.* is dated 19 Aug. 49 Ed. III (1375).



the King's hey of Thistelyn in the forest of Kannok and of keeping the bailiwick of Hegghe Cank which is called Trunwyn's baillie, etc., etc. : also that she held in demesne as of fee *three parts* of the manors of Weston under Loseyorde and Newton near Blythefelde in the county of Stafford, according to the partition of the said manors into five equal parts, of the Earl of Arundel by knight's service, whereof every part of the said three parts of the manor of Weston was worth *per annum* in all issues 40s., and every part of the said three parts of the manor of Newton was worth *per annum* in all issues 20s. : also that she held in manner aforesaid the advowson of the church of Weston, to present in turn for three times when it should happen [to be vacant] : also that she held on the day of her death a messuage and a virgate of land with the appurtenances in Dunstone in the same county in the manner aforesaid of Simon de Pikstoke, by what service the jurors were ignorant, which were worth *per annum* 10s., and the fourth part of a carucate of land with the appurtenances in Blymenhull in the same county of the Earl of Stafford by knight's service, which was worth 10s. *per annum* : also that she held on the day of her death 10s. of annual rent with the appurtenances in Stretton in the same county in the manner aforesaid of Geoffrey de Congreve by the service of paying to the same Geoffrey 2*l.* rent *per annum* for all service : also that she held on the day of her death the advowson of the church of Blymenhull in the same county, to present to the same church when vacant at the twelfth turn. The jurors also find that Isabel wife of William Reynald, aunt of the said Elizabeth, was her next heir in blood, and that she was then 30 years of age and more, and that she had no issue by the aforesaid William Reynald.<sup>1</sup>

On the dorse of the inquisition is the following *memorandum* : "and be it remembered that William Reynald and Isabel his wife appeared before the King in his Court of Chancery, in the quindene of St. Michael in the year below written, and acknowledged and asserted that they had no right in two parts of the manors of Weston-under-Loseyorde and Newton near Blythefelde, in five parts divided, but that the said two parts ought to remain to Adam de Peshale and Elizabeth his wife now after the death of Elizabeth, daughter of William Trunwyn, by virtue of a certain fine levied before William de finchedene and his associates, late

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 49 Ed. III, Part 2, 1st numbers, No. 49.





Justices of the King's Bench, in the 47th year of the reign of the same King, as by a certain part of the same fine shewn in the King's Court of Chancery fully appears," and the following fine is given on a separate membrane:—"This is the final concord, made in the court of the Lord King at Westminster on the morrow of All Souls in the 47th year of the reign of Edward King of England the third from the Conquest and the 34th<sup>1</sup> of his reign as King of France (3 Nov. 1373) before William de Finchdene, William de Wickyngham, and Roger de Kirketon, Justices and others of the Lord King's lieges then present there, between Adam de Peshale and Elizabeth his wife, complainants, and Stephen de Bromley, clerk, deforciant, of 20 acres of land and 50 shillings of rent with the appurtenances in Blymenhull and Stretton, and of two parts of the manors of Weston-under-Leseyerde and Neweton near Blithfelde into five parts divided, with the appurtenances, which Roger Lanfant and Elizabeth his wife held for term of life of the said Elizabeth, whence was plea of convention summoned between them in the same court, that is to say, the aforesaid Stephen has conceded for himself and his heirs that the aforesaid tenements and two parts, with the appurtenances, which the aforesaid Roger and Elizabeth his wife held for the term of life of the said Elizabeth, of the inheritance of the aforesaid Stephen, in the said villis on the day in which this concord was made, and which, after the death of the same Elizabeth, wife of Roger, ought to revert to the aforesaid Stephen and his heirs, should after the death of the same Elizabeth, wife of Roger, wholly remain to the aforesaid Adam and Elizabeth his wife, and the heirs of the body begotten of the same Adam, to be held of the chief lords of the fee by the services which pertain to the said tenements and two parts for ever; and if it should happen that the same Adam should die without an heir of his body begotten, then after the decease of the same Adam and Elizabeth his wife the aforesaid tenements and two parts, with the appurtenances, shall wholly remain to Isabel, sister of the same Adam, and the heirs of her body begotten, to hold of the chief lords of the fee by the services which pertain to the said tenements and two parts for ever; and if it should happen that the same Isabel should die without an heir of her

<sup>1</sup> It is obviously the same fine that is erroneously referred to in Huntbach MSS., Vol. II, and in Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 27b. as *anno* 34 Ed. III. See "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, p. 180.



body begotten, then after the decease of the same Isabel the aforesaid tenements and two parts, with the appurtenances, shall wholly remain to the right heirs of the aforesaid Adam, to be held of the chief lords of the fee by the accustomed services for ever. And the aforesaid Stephen and his heirs warrant to the aforesaid Adam and Elizabeth his wife and the heirs of the same Adam, and to the heirs of the same Isabel if the aforesaid Adam should die without an heir of his body begotten, and also to the right heirs of the same Adam if the same Isabel should die without an heir of her body begotten, the aforesaid tenements and two parts, with the appurtenances, as is aforesaid, against all men for ever, and for this concession, warranty, fine, and concord the same Adam and Elizabeth his wife have given to the aforesaid Stephen two hundred marks of silver.”<sup>1</sup>

On 24 October of the same year (1375) Roger de la Lee, the King’s escheator for the county of Stafford, is ordered, after taking their security for the payment of reasonable reliefs into the King’s exchequer, to give full seisin to William Reynald and Isabel his wife, the aunt and heir of Elizabeth, daughter and heir of William Trumwyn of Kannokbury deceased, of one messuage and one virgate of land with the appurtenances in Kannokbury, which are held of the King *in capite*, by the services of keeping the King’s hey of Thistelyn in the King’s forest of Kannok, and keeping the bailiwick of Hegghe Cank called Trumwyne’s Baillie, and the payment of a yearly rent of 20 pence to the King, and the payment of 13 shillings and 4 pence to John Swynnerton, keeper of the said forest, to the use of the King, for the aforesaid hey; and of one water mill, one carucate of land, one acre of meadow, with the appurtenances, in Dunston and Stretton; also of a fourth part of one carucate of land with the appurtenances in Blymenhull, and a fifth part of the manors of Weston-under-Luseyerd and Newton near Blythefeld, with the appurtenances, according to the partition of the said manors into five equal parts divided, together with the advowsons of Weston, to present alternately, *for three turns*, and of the church of Blymenhull, to present for the twelfth turn, which are held of others.<sup>2</sup>

From this it would seem that the King claimed on behalf of the Trumwyn heir all three shares of the *advowson* though only

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 49 Ed. III, Part 2, 1st numbers, No. 49.

<sup>2</sup> Orig. Roll, 49 Ed. III, m. 9.



one of the *manor* of Weston, and this will possibly account for the admission of William de Blumhill on the presentation of the King in 1378 as mentioned above (p. 51). But the advowson never having been severed from the manor would pass under a conveyance of the manor without being specially mentioned, and as we find that Sir Adam de Peshale subsequently (in 1381) presented to the church *on the same vacancy*, and that his presentee Roger de Aston was living and parson of the church of Weston on 27 June 1386 and on several other subsequent occasions, we may safely conclude that the King's presentation was ultimately set aside.

By letters patent dated a few weeks previously, namely on 20 September of the same year (1375), the King had granted to Sir William Trussell of Cublesdon, knight, the custody of all the lands and tenements in Cannokbury, Weston, Newton, Dunston, Blymenhull and Stretton, co. Stafford, which had belonged to Elizabeth the daughter of William Trunwyn, which she had held of the King *in capite*, and which had been taken into the King's hands after her death, to hold so long as they should happen to remain in the hands of the King at a yearly rent of £10. 18s. 4d.<sup>1</sup>

As a matter of fact the lands at Cannokbury were the only ones that were held of the King *in capite*, but on the death of a tenant *in capite* all his lands held in fee, of whomsoever they were held, fell into the hands of the King by virtue of the Royal Prerogative: where the heir was of full age this was called *primer seisin* and a full year's profits were payable to the King before livery could be obtained. As we have seen, the reversion in two shares of the manors of Weston and Newton and of the lands at Blynhill and Stretton had already been purchased by Adam de Peshale. The accord of 9 October 1375 between Sir William Trussell and Adam de Peshale, which enabled the latter to sue livery out of the hands of the King and get possession of his inheritance, has already been set out at length,<sup>2</sup> and need not be here repeated.

On the morrow of All Souls of the same year (3 Nov. 1375) a fine was levied by William Reynald and Isabel his wife in favour of William Trussell of Cubblesdon, knight, of a fifth part of the

<sup>1</sup> Orig. Roll, 49 Ed. III, m. 8.

<sup>2</sup> See *ante*, pp. 58, 59.





manor of Weston under Luseyrd, and a fourth part of a carucate of land in Blymenhull, and a fifth part of the advowson of the church of the same manor, and they remitted all their right to William Trussell and his heirs, for which he gave them 100 marks of silver.<sup>1</sup>

Isabel, the daughter of Sir William Trumwyn and the Weston coheiress, who succeeded to the Trumwyn inheritance on the death of her niece, had by William Reynald her first husband one son named William living in November 1375,<sup>2</sup> but he died before his mother. She was afterwards married to John Saleway of Leacroft, by whom she had a son and heir; and thirdly to Nicholas Rugeley. At the inquisition taken after her death on the Monday next after the feast of St. Martin, 1 Hen. IV (17 Nov. 1399), no mention is made of her holding lands at Weston: she died on the feast of the Apostles Simon and Jude last past (28 Oct. 1399), and John Saleway was found to be her son and next heir.<sup>3</sup> As already mentioned, she had parted with her share of the manor of Weston during her lifetime, and the land comprised in the following grant made two years before her death by her son John Saleway to Sir Adam de Peshale was no part of this share. By this deed, which is dated at the vill of Le Kancke [Cannock] on the day of St. George the Martyr, 20 Ric. II (23 April 1397), John Saleway of Kancke granted to Sir Adam de Peshale, his heirs and assigns, a certain place of land in the fields of Weston under Brewood, which he held of the gift and concession of Roger le Porter of Weston etc.: the witnesses to this deed being Michael de Morton, James his brother, Richard de Haughton [or Leighton], John Umfreston, John de Weston, William de le Walle, and many others.<sup>4</sup> No doubt this was the same place of land which was granted by Sir John de Weston to Adam le Porter of Weston and Sara his wife in 4 Ed. III (1330) as mentioned above (p. 37).

John Salewey, the son of John Salewey and Isabel Trumwyn, married Isolda, the daughter and heiress of John Washborne of Stanford co. Worcester, and dying in 8 Hen. V<sup>5</sup> was succeeded by his son Humphrey Salewey Esq. of Cannock and Stanford, who was the King's escheator for the county of Worcester in 22 Hen. VI, and knight mareschal of that prince's court, as appears by his

<sup>1</sup> Fin. Conc. temp. Ed. III ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, p. 182, No. 47).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, No. 48.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 1 Hen. IV, Part 1, No. 66.

<sup>4</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 15; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 84 (from original at Weston).

<sup>5</sup> Inq. 8 Hen. V, No. 68.





monument in Stanford Church.<sup>1</sup> He died on 14 March 8 Hen. VII (1493), and in the inquisition taken on his death mention is made of three sons, Thomas, Edward, and Walter, and of a daughter, Ann.<sup>2</sup> It is remarkable that no mention is made of his eldest son, Sir John Salewey, knight, who is said to have been disinherited by his father, and is in one pedigree called "*lanaticus*." He appears to have taken a different side to his father in the wars of the Roses, and is described as being of the immediate retinue of George Duke of Clarence. He nevertheless succeeded to the Trunwyn lands, which were held *in capite*, and could not therefore be disposed of by the will of his father. Sir John Salewey died on 10 May 10 Hen. VIII (1518), seised amongst other tenements of one messuage and one virgate of land, held of the King *in capite* for his homage and the service of keeping the King's wood within the fee of Cannoc called Trimwyn Bayley, which is valued at 10s. There is no mention, either in this inquisition or in that of his father Humphrey Salewey, of the manors of Weston or Newton. His coheirs were Humphrey Coningsby, son and heir of his daughter Cecilia, and his other two daughters, Joyce wife of William Ashby and Margaret wife of Richard Biddulph.<sup>3</sup>

Thomas, the second son of Humphrey Salewey, succeeded to Stanford and carried on the male line, which is still extant in the person of Alfred Salewey Esq. of The Lodge, near Ludlow, though Stanford has long since passed away through heirs female.

How and when the inheritance of the *Trunwyn* share of the manor of Weston became vested in Sir Adam de Peshale or his descendants is not clear. It was his aim to reunite the divided parts of the manor into one, and the pertinacity with which he pursued his purpose was ultimately crowned with success. The reversions of the *Champion* and *Whyston* shares he had acquired in 1373, and they fell into possession in 1375; in the *Foljambe* share he had acquired a limited interest in 1373, and the reversion was secured to him by the exchange in 1380; in the *Fouleshurst* share he had acquired some interest for his own life in 1373, and the reversion of the share also he had secured by the exchange of 1380. It follows therefore that it was the *Trunwyn* share in respect of which we find him taking a lease for his own life from Sir Fulk de Pembrugge, who had doubtless become entitled to it under some

<sup>1</sup> Nash's Worcestershire, Vol. II, pp. 366, 369.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. 8 Hen. VII, No. 88.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 19 Hen. VIII, Vol. 46, No. 31.



settlement made by his wife Margaret after she succeeded to her cousin Sir William Trussell's inheritance.<sup>1</sup> No transcript of this lease itself is now extant, nor do we know its date, but the presumption is that it was prior to the inquisition of 1383 referred to in the next paragraph or at any rate before the deed of 27 June 1386 quoted below. The existence of this lease is known to us from a release dated at Weston on the Thursday next after the feast of the Conception of St. Mary, 1 Hen. IV (11 December 1399), whereby Sir Fulk de Pembrugge, knight, for himself and his heirs quit-claims to Sir Adam de Peshale, knight, for the term of his life the annual rent of 33s. 4d. which he had been accustomed to pay for the fifth part of the manor of Weston under Leseverd, which he held of him for the term of his life by his dimission, reserving to himself and his heirs a free ingress and egress to his wood in the said fifth part of the aforesaid manor, to fell and carry away timber at their will.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sir Fulk appears to have become entitled in a similar way by fine and settlement in 15 Ric. II (1391) to the manor of Cublesdon (see *Coram Rege Roll*, Easter 28 Hen. VI, m. 28, *ex inf.* Maj.-Gen. the Hon. G. Wrottesley).

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 11. Seal: arms of Pembrugge surmounted by crest, a Saracen's head with long plaits of hair (as on the helm, on which his head is pil- lowed, in the monument to his memory in Tong Church). Eyton in his "Antiquities of Shropshire," Vol. II, pp. 253-5, decides against the traditional assignment of this monument to Sir Fulk Pembrugge and his second wife Isabel, the builder of the church and founder of the College of Tong, on the following grounds:—(1) that Sir Fulk Pembrugge is known to have been buried in the Lady Chapel, whereas this monument is in the north transept, a rather unusual position for the Lady Chapel; and (2) the occurrence of the Vernon arms in several of the shields round the tomb, while of the first two shields, which he takes to be the important ones, the first is blank, and the second is party per pale; dexter, Pembrugge impaling Ludlow, sinister, blank. He makes no comment on the significant fact that the crest (as described by Dugdale, whose description he quotes) is a "Turkish woman's head with a wreath about her temples, her hair platted and hanging below her shoulders with a tassel at the end of the plating," whereas in all the Vernon monuments the crest is a boar's head. This fact alone, to which attention is called by Mr. George Griffiths in his "History of Tong," p. 33, would be almost sufficient to identify the monument as that of Sir Fulk Pembrugge (whose arms and crest are also shown on his own seal and on that of his mother—given in Nichols' History of Leicester- shire, Vol. IV, Part 1, Plate XII, figs. 14-16, *cf.* p. 26); and this view is corroborated by the character of the armour, as pointed out by Mr. Cramage in his "Churches of Shropshire," p. 44. But in truth the objections propounded by Eyton admit of an easy solution. As to (1), the statutes and ordinances of the College of Tong show that the Lady Chapel at Tong was in fact on the north side of the church: "*dicatur missa de S. Mariæ in capellâ ex parte boreali dictæ ecclesiæ*" (Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum*, Vol. VIII, p. 1408). As regards (2), Eyton's description of the second shield is not quite a correct representation of Dugdale's drawing, in which the dexter side of this shield is



By inquisition taken at Weston on the Tuesday next before the feast of All Saints, 7 Ric. II (29 Oct. 1383), it was found that it would not be to the King's damage, or to that of anyone else, if he should concede to Adam de Peshale a view of frank pledge, with all the rights thereto belonging, in the villis of Weston under Loseyerd, Blemlull and Bruynton, in the county of Stafford, to him and his heirs for ever; that the aforesaid vill of Weston was held of Richard Earl of Arundel and was of the annual value of 5 marks; that the villis of Blemlull and Bruynton were held of Hugh Earl of Stafford by knight's service and were of the annual value of 10 marks; and that this view of frank pledge would be of the annual value of 2s.<sup>1</sup>

By deed dated at Weston on the Sunday next after the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, 10 Ric. II (27 June 1386), SIR ADAM DE PESHALE, knight, constitutes John de Weston his attorney to deliver to Sir Roger de Aston, parson of the church of Weston under Loseyort, and William Farnecote seisin of the *whole manor of Weston*, with all other appurtenances which he had acquired there and elsewhere in the county of Stafford, according to the form and effect of a charter which he had made to the said Roger and William.<sup>2</sup>

And in the year 21 Ric. II (1397-8), in the inquisition taken on the death of Richard Earl of Arundel, it was found that Adam de Peshale held under him one knight's fee in Weston under Loseyard and Newton.<sup>3</sup>

In Michaelmas term 5 Hen. IV (1403) Sir Fulk Pembrugge had levied a fine of 20 acres of land and 4 acres of meadow in Weston and Blumehulle, and of the fifth part of the manor of Weston under Luseord, and of the advowson of the church of the said manor, and of a fifth part of the advowson of the church of Blumehulle, in favour of William Mosse, parson of the church of Langeport, Robert Say, parson of the church of Eton Hastyng, and Walter Swan, parson of the church of Ayleston, and Sir Adam de Peshale had been summoned to appear as a tenant to acknowledge what not Pembrugge *impaling* Ludlow, but Pembrugge in chief and Ludlow in base, a common form of showing a lady's two marriages. Now the first husband of Isabel Pembrugge the Founder was Sir John Ludlow, and it is more than probable that the first shield and the sinister side of the second shield were left blank by her at the time the monument was erected with a view to the possibility of a future marriage, and were never filled in. It is not unnatural that the arms of Vernon, Sir Fulk's heir at law, should be depicted on the side of the tomb in a subordinate position.

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 21 Ric. II, No. 92.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 13b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 82b. (from original at Weston).

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 21 Ric. II, No. 1.





right he claimed. He did not appear, and it was stated that he had attorned himself tenant to the feoffees for the said tenements *in patriâ*, whereupon the fine was ordered to be engrossed at the peril of the feoffees.<sup>1</sup>

By deed dated at Weston on the Thursday next before the feast of the Purification of the B. V. Mary, 7 Hen. IV (7 February 1405-6), Sir Adam de Peshale granted to Roger de Aston, parson of the church of Weston, William Lee and Thomas de Walton his manor of Weston under Luzehood and the advowson of the same manor with all its appurtenances except those lands and tenements with the appurtenances which he held in the same vill for the term of his life of Falk de Pembrugge, knight, etc. : the witnesses being John Knyghteley, William Pycheford, Thomas Giffard, Michael Mourton, Thomas Wolaston, and others.<sup>2</sup>

In the same year (1405) Adam de Peshale, chivaler, sued Thomas Batte, smyth, for breaking into his close and houses at Weston under Lesceverde and cutting down and carrying away his trees to the value of 100s. Thomas did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest and produce him on the Octaves of St. Hilary.<sup>3</sup>

In 9 Hen. IV (1407-8) Adam de Peshale, chivaler, sued John Duffeld, chaplain, William Mercer, chaplain, John Woderove, William Walker, William Salter, John Perton, William Alger, and Robert Bocher, for entering his free warren at Weston without permission, and taking his goods and chattels to the value of 100s., and likewise hares, rabbits, pheasants and partridges. None of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest and produce them on the quindene of St. Hilary.<sup>4</sup>

While thus engaged in securing the inheritance of his first wife Elizabeth de Weston, he was no less busy over that of his second wife Elizabeth ap Rees. This lady was the daughter, and coheiress with her sister Mabel wife of Sir Hugh de Wrottesley, of Sir Philip ap Rees, knight, lord of Ideshale (Shifnal) co. Salop and of Talgarth Engleys co. Brecknock in the marches of Wales adjoining the county of Hereford.<sup>5</sup> She had been pre-

<sup>1</sup> De Banco Roll, Mich. 5 Hen. IV, m. 163 ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XV, p. 111).

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 11b.

<sup>3</sup> De Banco Roll, Mich. 7 Hen. IV, m. 163 ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVI, p. 49).

<sup>4</sup> De Banco Roll, 9 Hen. IV, m. 126 ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVI, p. 63).

<sup>5</sup> Sir Philip ap Rees, sometimes called Philip de Brenlees, was a natural son of *Magister* Rees ap Howel, *Clericus*, a man of high birth and good education, who played an important part in the reign of Edward II. According to Jones's "History of Brecknockshire" (Vol. I, pp. 115, 153) Rees ap Howel was a grandson



vously married to Sir Henry Mortimer of Chelmarsh, knight, by whom, as already mentioned, she had a son Hugh Mortimer,

of Trahaern Vychan, the grandson of Gwrgan ap Bleddin ap Maenarch Prince of Brecheiniog, and there seems no reason to doubt the accuracy of this statement. Soon after the accession of Edward II he acquired the manor of Talgarth from the King in exchange for the manor of Pontesbury co. Salop (Pat. Roll, 2 Ed. II, Part 2, m. 10), which he had a few years previously purchased from John FitzReginald FitzPeter [FitzHerbert] (see Eyton's "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. VII, p. 134). This manor of Talgarth had in the year 1121 been included in the marriage portion granted by Henry I to Miles of Gloucester with Sibyl, the daughter of Bernard de Neufmarché the conqueror of Brecon (Duchy of Lancaster Royal Charters, No. 6, at the Record Office). On the death of Miles of Gloucester and all his sons his estates were divided between his daughters and coheirs, Margery de Bohun, Bertha de Braose, and Lucy FitzHerbert, the castle and honour of Brecknock as well as the manor of Talgarth falling to the share of Bertha. On the attainder of her son William de Braose his lands and honours escheated to the Crown, and the manor of Talgarth, with other lands, were granted by King John to Peter FitzHerbert. These lands were subsequently recovered by a junior branch of the de Braoses, but again retransferred by Henry III to the FitzHerberts. On the death of William de Braose, great nephew of the above-mentioned William, in 1230 his estates were divided amongst his five coheirs, of whom the eldest, Isabel, married (1st) David, son of Llewellyn Prince of Wales, and (2ndly) Peter FitzHerbert, and the second, Elinor, married Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Essex, son of the Earl of Hereford, the castle and honour of Brecknock falling to the share of Elinor de Bohun, whilst the manor of Talgarth either was on this division allotted to, or remained under the grant of Henry III with, the FitzHerberts (Jones's Brecknockshire, Vol. I, pp. 104, 111, 123, 132; Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. I, p. 419, *sub nom.* Braose). In 1275 the title of the FitzHerberts was secured by a quit-claim from William de Braose, the lineal representative of the William de Braose who was attained in the reign of King John (Abbrev. Placit., 3 & 4 Ed. I, rot. 13, *verso*). In 1308 John FitzReginald FitzPeter [FitzHerbert] granted the manor of Talgarth and other lands to Edward II, and had a regrant of the same lands for life (Pat. Roll, 1 Ed. II, Part 2, m. 15), and in the following year the reversion of the manor of Talgarth was granted by the King to Rees ap Howel in exchange for the manor of Pontesbury (Pat. Roll, 2 Ed. II, Part 2, m. 10). In 1312 a settlement was made of this manor by the King's license upon Rees' illegitimate son Philip de Breulees in tail, with successive remainders to his brothers and sister in tail (Pat. Roll, 5 Ed. II, Part 2, m. 7; Inq., 2 Ed. III, 2nd numbers, No. 62). It was probably shortly before this time that Rees ap Howel acquired the castle of Breules and lordship of Cantreselly, previously held by the Cliffords under the de Bohuns, Earls of Hereford and Essex and lords of Brecknock. The Clifford heiress, Matilda daughter of Walter de Clifford, married (1st) William Longspee, Earl of Salisbury, and (2ndly) John Giffard de Brimsfield, and on the death of the latter in 1299 he is found to have held these estates by the courtesy of England in right of his wife Matilda (Inq. 27 Ed. I, No. 55). The coheirs of Matilda de Clifford were Margery Longespee wife of Henry de Lacy Earl of Lincoln, Catherine Giffard wife of Nicholas de Audley, Elinor Giffard wife of Fulk le Strange of Blackmere, and Maude Giffard (Eyton's "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. V, p. 147), and it was probably these coheirs who sold Breulees and Cantreselly to Rees ap Howel, for those estates certainly afterwards belonged to the ap Rees family, and in the above mentioned



who was killed at the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403 and left no issue. Sir Philip ap Rees died in August 1369, leaving Joan his widow and two daughters, Elizabeth, then the widow of Sir Henry Mortimer, and Mabel, the wife of Sir Hugh de Wrottesley, his coheirs. Mabel Wrottesley survived her father only 40 days, and Joan ap Rees died in August of the following year, by which time her only surviving daughter and sole heir had married Adam de Peshale.<sup>1</sup> On Sir Philip's death the manor of Talgarth Engleys

Talgarth settlement of 1312 Philip ap Rees and his brothers and sister are styled de Breullees. Rees ap Howel joined with the Earls of Lancaster and Hereford in the rebellion directed in reality against the influence of the King's favourites the two Despencers, and on the defeat of the rebels at Boronglbridge and suppression of the rebellion in 1321 he was attainted and his estates forfeited to the Crown, the manor of Talgarth being shortly afterwards granted to Hugh Despencer the younger (Chart. Roll, 17 Ed. II, No. 3). Rees ap Howel then joined the party of the Queen, and is said to have been mainly instrumental in the capture of the King in Glamorganshire (Jones's Brecknockshire, Vol. I, p. 153). On the death of the Despencers his attainder was reversed and his estates restored. Immediately after the accession of Edward III he was employed judicially as a commissioner of oyer and terminer in South Wales (Pat. Roll, 1 Ed. III, m. 27d, 33d; Close Roll, 2 Ed. III, m. 31), soon after which he died (Inq. 2 Ed. III, 2nd numbers No. 62). General Wrottesley says that neither the terms "*Magister*" and "*Clericus*," by which he was usually designated, nor the fact that he was a prebendary of St. David's (Pat. Roll, 2 Ed. III, m. 2) necessarily imply that he was in holy orders, "*Magister*" signifying a graduate of an University, and "*Clericus*" having even as early as that time come to be used in the sense of a man of education or scholar and not only in its original signification of a clerk in holy orders (*cf.* Eyton's "*Ant. Shrop.*," Vol. XII, p. 165, Index, *sub nom. Clericus*), while a prebend could be held by a layman. At the same time, although Rees ap Howel seems to have adopted the legal rather than the clerical profession, it is not unlikely that he had taken some minor ecclesiastical orders if he was not in priest's orders, for, although he had several children besides Philip, who are mentioned as remaindermen in the Talgarth settlement, he does not (so far as we know) appear to have ever been married. On his death the manor of Talgarth, which was held of the King *in capite*, and probably also the castle of Breullees and lordship of Cantreselly, which were held of the honour of Brecknock, passed under the settlement to his son Philip. In 1352 Sir Philip ap Rees exchanged the manors of Breullees and Langoyt and the lordship of Cantreselly and also certain lands (including the park) within the manor of Talgarth with William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton, and Elizabeth his wife (the Badlesmere coheiress) for the manor of Ideshale except the advowson and one acre of land (Duchy of Lancaster Deeds, L.S. 171, L. 1618, L. 1621); and, as the Talgarth lands and the manor of Ideshale were both held of the King *in capite*, the necessary licenses of alienation were obtained (Duchy of Lancaster Royal Charters, Nos. 314, 315), by virtue of which the manor of Ideshale was directed to be limited in settlement following the lines of the Talgarth settlement of 1312, and a power of re-entry was reserved to the Earl of Northampton in the event of any of the remaindermen under that settlement recovering against him the lands taken by him in exchange.

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 43 Ed. III, Part 1, No. 4; Inq. 44 Ed. III, No. 3.





became divisible between his two daughters subject to their mother's dower, and the escheator of Herefordshire and the Marches of Wales was accordingly ordered to make a partition of this vill and lordship between Sir Hugh de Wrottesley as tenant by the courtesy in right of his late wife and Adam de Peshale and Elizabeth his wife in right of Elizabeth, without prejudice however to the widow's dower.<sup>1</sup> But the manor of Ideshale, which had been settled upon Sir Philip and Joan his wife *and the heirs of their bodies*, and also certain lands at Talgarth, including a messuage called Jonesfeld and the park and other lands which had been conveyed to Sir Philip and Joan jointly in fee simple,<sup>2</sup> remained vested in his widow.<sup>3</sup> Both daughters had issue by their husbands born alive, and therefore, although in both cases the issue died young, Adam de Peshale and Sir Hugh de Wrottesley were each entitled to a life interest by the courtesy of England in his wife's estates. On the death of Joan ap Rees Elizabeth succeeded to the manor of Ideshale and the lands at Talgarth settled upon Sir Philip and Joan jointly, as the sole then surviving heir of both father and mother, and she also became entitled to the one third share of Talgarth which her mother had held in dower; for the right by courtesy never attached upon a remainder or reversion expectant on an estate of freehold: for this right to arise it was necessary that there should be an estate in possession, if not an actual entry by the husband, during his wife's life;<sup>4</sup> and, as we find that dower was actually assigned to Joan ap Rees out of this manor,<sup>5</sup> and that Mabel Wrottesley died before her mother, it was impossible for Sir Hugh to get seisin either in fact or in law during her life of any part of the share held in dower. However it would seem that he put in a claim to a part of this share of Talgarth as well as to the lands there which had been held by Sir Philip and Joan jointly, for he opposed the livery thereof to the Peshales out of the hands of the King, who had taken possession as chief lord, and Sir Hugh was a very formidable

<sup>1</sup> Orig. Roll, 43 Ed. III, m. 11.

<sup>2</sup> These lands including the park were comprised in the exchange with the Earl of Northampton as part of the consideration for the manor of Ideshale, in 1352, and must have been reconveyed to Sir Philip and Joan ap Rees (*cf.* Orig. Roll, 43 Ed. III, m. 62).

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 44 Ed. III, No. 3.

<sup>4</sup> Littleton's Tenures, secs. 35-52; Co. Litt. 29, a; 2 Brooke's Abr., p. 257; 2 Bacon's Abr., p. 554.

<sup>5</sup> Inq. 44 Ed. III, No. 3.





opponent. On the partition of the manor of Talgarth by the King's escheator between Sir Hugh and the Peshales each of them had been compelled to pay or give security for half a knight's fee as the relief due to the Crown,<sup>1</sup> and Sir Hugh may well have felt aggrieved that he should have been compelled to pay half the relief and yet should get only one third of the manor for his life, but the relief had become due on the death of Sir Philip ap Rees, and, though it was an apparent hardship, legally Sir Hugh had no cause of complaint.

Sir Hugh de Wrottesley was an able soldier, who had served with honour and distinction in the King's wars in France and Spain, and was held in such high esteem by King Edward III, that he had made him one of his original Knights of the Garter,<sup>2</sup> and given him a post in the Royal Household.<sup>3</sup> When not engaged in fighting the King's battles he seems to have employed most of his time in the active prosecution of his private feuds, from which his strong arm usually brought him out victorious, and though it several times involved him in bloodshed and grave risk of serious consequences to himself, he always managed in the end to secure the pardon of the King, who needed his services.<sup>4</sup> Adam de Peshale also was a man of valour and determination, whose family generally managed to hold their own.

By the intervention of their mutual friends the dispute between Sir Hugh de Wrottesley and Adam de Peshale was for a time at any rate set at rest, and by deed dated at Westminster on Wednesday in the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, 44 Ed. III (18 Oct. 1370), it was agreed through the mediation of good friends between Sir Hugh de Wrottesley, chivaler, of the one part and Adam de Peshale and Elizabeth his wife of the other part, that the aforesaid Sir Hugh should suffer the said Adam and Elizabeth to have the livery out of the hands of the King of the third part of the lordship and manor of Talgarth Engleys in the Marches of Wales, which Joan, who was the wife of Philip ap Rees, chivaler, held during her life in the name of dower, of the inheritance of the said Elizabeth, and of a messuage called Jonesfeld and two dovecouses, 30 acres of land, and a

<sup>1</sup> Pipe Roll, 47 Ed. III (Hereford); Memorandum Roll (L. T.), 48 Ed. III (*inter Fines of Easter Term*).

<sup>2</sup> Beltz's Memorials of the Garter, p. 64.

<sup>3</sup> *ex. inf.* Maj.-Gen. the Hon. G. Wrottesley.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*



croft called Gyloteselos, and a parcel of land called Home, and two parcels of pasture called Mulleorchard and More, and of the park of Talgarth, and after livery made to them the said Adam and Elizabeth or the heirs of Elizabeth, so soon as they could, should grant and lease by fine levied in the Court of our lord the King, to have and to hold to the said Sir Hugh for the term of his life in the form below written, and that at their common cost equally and by license of the King, which the said Sir Hugh was to purchase at his own cost, the said third part and all the tenements before named, and also the other third part of the same manor, which the aforesaid Adam and Elizabeth had during the life of the said Joan, . . . . ., that it should be lawful for the said Adam and Elizabeth and the heirs of Elizabeth to cut and carry away the wood growing in the said park at their will or to make free entry and egress by carriage during the whole time, that the profit of herbage, housebote and heybote, pannage, agistments and all other profits of the aforesaid park should belong to the said Sir Hugh, to have and to hold to him and to his assigns for the term of his life, rendering to the said Adam and Elizabeth and to the heirs of Elizabeth £40 a year; and a power of distress for rent in arrear was to be reserved to them during the lease over all the aforesaid tenements, or the other third part of the same manor, which Sir Hugh held by the law of England, and a right of re-entry upon the aforesaid tenements if the rent should remain in arrear for six weeks; and other provisions were made for limiting the warranty if Elizabeth should die without issue by Adam, and for securing the defence of the lands against strangers at the joint expense of the parties. And the said parties agreed that the things that remained to be done touching the said covenants should be done as soon as the time came that it should be necessary for them to be done. And to these covenants well and faithfully to keep and perform the said Sir Hugh and Adam were mutually pledged by their faith [*sount p loz foyes entre affyes*], and in witness of which things the parties aforesaid to these indentures had interchangeably put their seals.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Original deed *pènes* Lord Wrottesley (*ex inf.* Maj.-Gen. the Hon. G. Wrottesley). This deed is sealed with a seal bearing the Gech or Newport arms (a chevron between 3 leopard's faces) and the legend SIGILLUM THOME GECK, and General Wrottesley suggests that this seal was probably used by Adam de Peshale



A few days after the execution of this deed, namely on 22 Oct. 1370, the escheator for the county of Hereford and the Marches of Wales was directed to deliver the messuage called Jonesfeld and the other lands above mentioned to Adam de Peshale and Elizabeth his wife as the heir of Joan ap Rees.<sup>1</sup> Whether any lease of the Peshales' two shares of the manor was ever granted to Sir Hugh in accordance with the deed of accord is not clear,<sup>2</sup> but so far as the levying of the fine was concerned it seems that Adam de Peshale and his wife refused or neglected to carry out their agreement. It was

instead of his own with the intention of afterwards repudiating the deed, as not being his deed. Certainly that part of the compact which provided for the levying of a fine was not fulfilled by Adam, but it is not difficult to suggest other less unjustifiable motives for this default on his part than a fraudulent intention throughout the transaction. The use of another man's seal was in itself an innocent and not very uncommon proceeding when the party had not his own seal with him at the time, of which there is an instance among the transcripts of the Weston deeds in a release by James son of Robert Travers of Hutesdon, who, not having his own seal with him, seals with the seal of Sir William Bagot, one of the witnesses. Another instance, very similar to this deed of Adam de Peshale, will be found in a deed of his father-in-law, Sir Philip ap Rees, in 1352 (Duchy of Lancaster Records, Ancient Deeds L. 1621), where the seal used is that of John Talebot; *cf.* also Madox's *Formulare Anglicanum*, p. xxviiij. It is worth notice that Adam de Peshale's deed is dated, not from Weston, but from Westminster. It is true that no witnesses are mentioned in the testing clause of this deed, but it appears from Sir Hugh's counter-petition that the deed was acknowledged, if not executed, before several witnesses, and it would have been impossible for Adam de Peshale with any prospect of success to repudiate the deed in a Court of Law, for a deed sealed with another man's seal and delivered by a party to the deed as his deed is unquestionably as binding upon him at law as if sealed with his own seal. (Shepperd's Touchstone, p. 57; Brooke's Abridgement, Vol. I, p. 327, Tit. "Faits," pl. 76; *Ibid.*, Vol. II, p. 105, Tit. "Obligation," pl. 69; Rolle's Abr., Tit. "Faits" (D) 7; Vin. Abr., Tit. "Faits" (H) 1-9; Com. Dig., Tit. "Fait" (A. 2).) But though binding upon Adam de Peshale, the deed would not in any case have bound his wife, if she had survived him, or her heirs; for, being a married woman, she could only have bound herself by fine or other judicial proceeding, and Adam may well have thought that, when once the fine was levied, he would no longer have the security, which he then possessed, that his life would be respected by Sir Hugh. However this may be, it was probably more congenial to Sir Hugh's tastes to take the law into his own hands than to sue in a Court of Law, of the dilatory process of which he had already apparently had some experience.

<sup>1</sup> Orig. Roll, 44 Ed. III, m. 10. There is no mention here of the share of the manor which Joan ap Rees had held in dower.

<sup>2</sup> In a deed (*penes* Lord Wrottesley) dated from Talgarth on Tuesday the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, 1 Ric. II (29 Sept. 1377), Sir Hugh de Wrottesley styles himself "*dominus de Talgarth*," and grants a lease for a year of a manorial water mill at Talgarth. (*Ex inf.* Maj.-Gen. the Hon. G. Wrottesley.)





no doubt in respect of this breach of covenant that Sir Hugh was in litigation with the Peshales a few years later: of this litigation we find a notice in the De Banco Roll of Hilary, 50 Ed. III (1376), *m.* 164,<sup>1</sup> where it is recorded that in the suit of Hugh de Wrottesley, chivaler, against Adam de Peshale and Elizabeth his wife, the Sheriff returned that the defendants had nothing within his bailiwick by which they could be attached, and it was held in Court that they held sufficient. He was therefore ordered to distrain and produce them on the Quindene of Easter.

Failing to obtain redress perhaps in this action, Sir Hugh de Wrottesley seems to have taken the law into his own hands. In 1 Ric. II (1377) Adam de Peshale preferred a petition to the King and his Council, in which he complains that, as he was returning home to his own country after attending the King's coronation, Sir Hugh de Wrottesley, designing his death, had placed a company of armed men in ambush on the King's high-way between London and his own country, and brought them to a place called Foxhunte Ledegate<sup>2</sup> in the county of Worcester, for the purpose of killing and murdering him and his men, as is known to the whole county; that he had also so threatened with maiming and beating, from day to day, the said Adam and his servants, and likewise his tenants the merchants of Shuffenhale (Shifnal), which is a market town, that they dared not come to the fair to traffick or make their profit; moreover that he had taken from a certain William Barker, the said Adam's tenant, twenty-four cows and brought them to Wrottesley on the King's high-way, and kept them until he had received a fine of 24 shillings, to the great loss and hindrance of the said Adam and his tenants; and further that he had formed his retinue of men of the counties of Chester and Lancaster who were outlaws and common malefactors. And he prayed for remedy to be ordained.<sup>3</sup>

In consequence of this complaint Sir Hugh de Wrottesley is summoned to appear before the King and his Council on the Morrow of St. Martin in the same year under penalty of a fine of £300.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 127. See also *Ibid.*, note to pp. 140, 141.

<sup>2</sup> Fox Lydiate, near Redditch, between Alcester and Bromsgrove.

<sup>3</sup> Ancient Petitions, No. 7271 (Record Office).

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, *dorso*, and Nos. 7269, 7270. The summons is dated 30 Oct. 1 Ric. II (1377).



Sir Hugh's answer, contained in his counter-petition, is that Adam de Peshale had not kept his agreement to levy a fine in his favour concerning the manor of Talgarth, although he had sworn [*estoit juree*] to do so before Sir Ralph Ferers, Sir Peter de Caverswalle, Sir Nicholas de Stafford, Sir Thomas Harcourt and others, which oath he had broken, notwithstanding his deed indented and under his seal, by which breaking of oath the said Sir Hugh had been put to great cost and injury, because the said manor is held of the King *in capite*, and he had purchased the King's license for a great sum of money. Since which time in consequence of the enmity between the said Adam and himself the said Adam's men had beaten the men and servants of the said Hugh on the day of St. Thomas last past at the fair at Albryghton, and then sent off immediately to the same Adam at Ideshale (Shifnal), complaining of the men of the said Hugh whom they had beaten. Whereupon Hamenet,<sup>1</sup> the brother of the said Adam, armed and arrayed for war, and others of his household and tenants to the number of sixty armed men, went to Albryghton, and pursued the said Hugh's men, whom they had thus beaten, out of the county of Salop, as far as Wrottesley in the county of Stafford, beating, wounding, assaulting, and illtreating them so that they were in fear of their lives, and all the while hooting at them and crying out, "Kill the Wrottesley robbers," and swearing that they wished the said Hugh had been there that they might have killed him,—to the alarm of the whole country and in breach of the King's peace, as well as to the great hurt and annoyance of the said Hugh. And nevertheless the said Adam and his brothers Hamenet and Sir Richard<sup>2</sup> went to the King's Court and laid a complaint against the said Hugh, to his slander and prejudice, and took out writs of attachment of his body without cause. Since which time on another occasion, Sir Richard, Adam, Hamenet and others assembled 300 armed men, and at another time a still greater number, in the manner of war, so that the said Hugh did not dare to remain at his hostel or go out of his house without a great retinue

<sup>1</sup> Haminet, Hamo, or Hamond Peshale was lord of Willey co. Salop by marriage with Alice, only daughter and heir of Sir Robert Harley, knight, the son of Burga de Willey.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Richard de Peshale was lord of Chetwynd co. Salop in right of his wife Joan, daughter and heiress of Reginald son of John de Chetwynd.



because of their malice. On another occasion Thomas Gech,<sup>1</sup> brother-in-law of the said Adam, ordered William Godyngton to go with him against the said Hugh, and because he would not do this the sons of the said Richard went to the house of the said William and shamefully ill-treated him and his daughter against the peace of the Crown and dignity of our lord the King, and in despite, it was submitted, of the said Hugh.<sup>2</sup>

The immediate result of these proceedings does not appear. Not many years later, viz. in January 1381, Sir Hugh de Wrottesley died: in the inquisition taken at Hereford in the following month it was found that he held one third part of the manor of Talgarth for term of his life by the law of England in right of his late wife Mabel, the reversion belonging to Elizabeth, the wife of Adam de Peshale, chivaler, sister and heir of the same Mabel, that he held it of the King *in capite* by the service of a third part of a knight's fee, and that it was of the annual value of £12.<sup>3</sup> In the inquisition taken on the death of Sir Adam de Peshale no mention is made of Talgarth, but there is no writ extant to the escheator for the county of Hereford and the Marches of Wales.<sup>4</sup>

Elizabeth de Peshale, Sir Adam's second wife, was living in February 1381, when Sir Hugh de Wrottesley's inquisition was taken. As already mentioned, she probably died about the year 1384, certainly before May 1388, when a marriage had been arranged between Sir Adam de Peshale and Joyce, the daughter and eventually (on the death of her niece Joyce the wife of Sir Hugh Burnell, knight)<sup>5</sup> coheir of Sir John de Bottetort of Weoley, knight, and the widow of Sir Baldwin Frevill, knight.

By deed dated at Maxtoke on the Monday next after the feast of Trinity, 11 Ric. II (25 May 1388),<sup>6</sup> and made between Sir John

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Gech de Newport married Isabel, the sister of Sir Adam de Peshale. He was lord of High Ercall, and direct ancestor of the Newports, Earls of Bradford.

<sup>2</sup> Ancient Petitions, No. 7282 (Record Office).

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 4 Ric. II, No. 61.

<sup>4</sup> Inq. 7 Hen. V, No. 64. This manor of Talgarth co Brecknock must not be confused with another manor of the same name in the cantred of Arwystly co. Montgomery, which belonged to the De la Poles and descended through the De la Pole heiress to the Charltons de Powys: this last manor is mentioned in a series of inquisitions of those families between the years 1293 and 1422 taken under writs to the escheator for Salop and the Marches of Wales.

<sup>5</sup> Inq. 9 Ric. II, No. 4 (on death of Sir John Bottetort). *cf.* De Banco Roll, Trin. 9 Hen. V ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVII, p. 79).

<sup>6</sup> In the transcript of the Weston deeds given in Harl. MS. 5816 (fo. 23b.) this





de Clynton, knight, lord of Maxtoke, and Sir Ralph de Bracebrugge, knight, of the one part, and Sir Adam de Peshale, knight, of the other part, it was covenanted and agreed that Sir Adam should marry the lady Joyce, late wife of Sir Baldwyn Frevill, knight, and that within a month of their esponsals Adam should enfeoff certain trustees in a hundred marks of land, that is to say, in all his lands and tenements, rents and services, which he had in the vills of Weston, Blumenhull, Merston and Newton in the county of Stafford, and that the same trustees should enfeoff the aforesaid Sir Adam and Joyce and the heirs of the said Sir Adam.<sup>1</sup>

In the same reign Sir Adam de Peshale added to his estates in Staffordshire by the purchase of the reversion of the manors of Thomenhorn and Rugeley. At a month from Easter 22 Ric. II (1399) a fine was levied, and afterwards recorded on the octaves of Holy Trinity, between Adam de Peshale, knight, complainant, and Thomas de Thomenhorn and Alice his wife, deforciant, of the manors of Tomenhorn and Rugeley, eight messuages, one toft, one carucate and 30 acres of land, 120 acres of meadow, . . . of pasture, 10 acres of wood, one wear, the bailiwick of Puysbaillie in Cannok, and 13s. 4d. of rent . . . Wyginton, Tymmore, and Whytyngton. Thomas and Alice acknowledged the said . . . wear and bailiwick to be the right of the said Adam, of which the said Adam held the said manors, six messuages, the toft, three acres of meadow, . . . of the gift of Thomas and Alice. And for this Adam granted to Thomas and Alice the said manors, tenements, wear and bailiwick, to be held by them and their issue at the rent of a rose yearly at the feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist; and Adam further granted that a messuage which John Edson and Agnes his wife held for life, and a messuage which Adam Littell and Alice his wife held for life, on the day on which this agreement was made, should after their decease remain to the said Thomas and Alice and their issue; and failing such issue the

deed is given as being of the date of 20 Ric. II, while in Humbach's MSS. in the Salt Library at Stafford the date is given as 16 Ric. II. Sir Baldwyn Frevill, the lady's first husband, died in 11 Ric. II, and the marriage could not have taken place later than 16 Ric. II, for the ages of her daughters by Sir Adam de Peshale are given at the inquisition taken after their father's death on 20 Dec. 1419 as 28 years and more and 26 years and more respectively, and the ages at such inquisitions are very rarely overstated. But the difficulty is solved by the transcript in Add. MS. 18667 (fo. 83), where the deed is given in full. The word is "Vnsisme" (*onzième*), which might easily be mistaken for "Vingtsisme."

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 23b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 83 (from original at Weston).





manors, tenements, wear, and balliwick were to revert to Adam de Peshale and his heirs for ever.<sup>1</sup> This reversion seems to have taken effect, for we find the manor of Thomenhorn and lands in Rugeley, Wigginton and Whytyngton afterwards in the possession of Sir Adam's descendants, and in 7 Hen. IV (1405-6) Adam de Peshale, chivaler, sued John, parson of Elleford, for breaking into his park at Tonhorne and cutting down and carrying away his trees to the value of 100s. John did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest and produce him on the octaves of St. Hilary.<sup>2</sup>

By his marriage with Joyce de Bottetort Sir Adam de Peshale acquired the manor of Bobyngton in the county of Stafford, which long remained in the possession of his descendants.<sup>3</sup> By deed dated at Bobinton 28 November 13 Hen. IV (1411) Sir Hugh de Burnell, knight, lord of Holgote and of Weoley (who had married Joyce the granddaughter and sole heir of Sir John de Bottetort and niece of Sir Adam de Peshale's wife), and Robert Rikedon granted to Roger Aston, parson of the church of Weston, William Pertone, parson of the church of Blymenhull, and William Lashefer, parson of the church of Hardeburgh, their manor of Bobyngton in the county of Stafford.<sup>4</sup> And by deed dated the Monday next after the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 3 Hen. V (17 August 1415), these trustees granted the same manor to Sir Adam de Peshale, knight, and Joyce his wife, the daughter of Sir John de Bottourt, knight, late lord of Weoley, to hold for the term of their lives, with remainder to Richard son of Reginald Mutton of Salop and Margaret his wife, the daughter of the said Adam and Joyce, and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder to William de Birmingham and Joan his wife, another of the daughters of the aforesaid Adam and Joyce, and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder to the right heirs of the said Adam de Peshale.<sup>5</sup>

Sir Adam de Peshale was knight of the shire for the county of

<sup>1</sup> *Fines temp. Ric. II* ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, p. 204).

<sup>2</sup> *De Banco Roll, Mich. 7 Hen. IV* ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVI, p. 49).

<sup>3</sup> Sir Adam de Peshale also acquired through this marriage one third part of the castle and manor of Weoley and other manors, the reversion of which they sold for 1000 marks ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, p. 227).

<sup>4</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 21b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 84b. (from original at Weston). To this deed is appended a seal bearing the following arms:—Quarterly, 1 and 4 a lion rampant, 2 and 3 a saltire engrailed, with the legend "SIGILLUM HUGONIS DNI BURNELL."

<sup>5</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 22; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 85 (from original at Weston).



Salop in 47 Ed. III in the parliament summoned to meet at Westminster 21 November 1373; he was member for the county of Stafford in 51 Ed. III (1377), and in 4 Ric. II (1380), 5 Ric. II (1381-2) and 6 Ric. II (1382-3).<sup>1</sup> In 7 Ric. II (1383-4) he was in Normandy with William Wyndesore, Captain of the Castle and town of Cherbourg, and had letters of protection for a year dated 15 February 1384.<sup>2</sup> He was again member for the county of Salop in 17 Ric. II (1393-4), 3 Hen. IV (1401-2) and 13 Hen. IV (1411-12). He is mentioned in the Plea Rolls of the last mentioned year,<sup>3</sup> and served the office of Sheriff of Shropshire in 6 Hen. V (1418).<sup>4</sup> In the following year (1419) his long and active life was brought to a close.

Two inquisitions were taken on his death, the one under the writ to the escheator for the county of Salop held at Shofenbule (Shifnal) on the Tuesday next after the feast of St. Katherine the Virgin, 7 Hen. V (28 Nov. 1419), and the other for the county of Stafford held at Penkridge on 20 December of the same year. By the former it was found that he held the manor of Ydeshale (Shifnal) *in capite* by knight's service for the term of his life by the law of England of the right of Elizabeth lately his wife, formerly the wife of Henry Mortymer, chivaler, the reversion after the death of the said Adam belonging to Matilda, the wife of John Talbot, chivaler, lord of Fournyvall, and Joan, the wife of Hugh Cokesey, knight, the daughters and heirs of Thomas Nevyll lately lord of Fournyvall deceased, and their heirs, of the gift of Henry late King of England, the father of the King that now is, to the same Thomas Nevyll and his heirs by letters patent as follows: Henry etc., etc. greeting. Know ye that whereas, as we have heard, Philip ap Rees, chivaler, a bastard, was seised in his demesne as of fee of the manor of Ydeshale, which is held of us in *in capite*, which Philip had issue formerly Elizabeth and died seised of the said manor, after whose death the aforesaid Elizabeth entered on the said manor and took in marriage Henry Mortimer, chivaler, and they had issue between them a certain Hugh Mortimer, chivaler, and the said Henry died, after whose death Adam de Peshale, chivaler, married the said Elizabeth, and they had issue between them which issue died, and afterwards the

<sup>1</sup> Parliaments of England, Parliamentary Papers 1878.

<sup>2</sup> French Roll, 7 Ric. II, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIV, Part 1, p. 239.

<sup>3</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVI, p. 80.

<sup>4</sup> Blakeway's "Sheriffs of Shropshire," p. 14.



same Elizabeth died, after whose death the aforesaid Adam holds the manor aforesaid by the law of England, and the aforesaid Hugh died without heirs *de se*, whereby the said manor belongs to us as our escheat, which manor with the appurtenances is worth 100 marks [here follows a grant by the King of the reversion of the said manor to Thomas Nevyl lord of Fournyvall and his heirs for ever]; dated at Westminster 10 Feb. 7 Hen. IV (1406).<sup>1</sup> The jurors also found that Adam died on the Thursday next before the feast of the Apostles Symon and Jude last past (26 Oct. 1419); that Joan, the wife of William Byrmyngham, and Margaret, lately the wife of Richard Mytton knight, were the daughters and next heirs of the said Adam; and that Joan was aged 28 years and more, and Margaret 26 years and more.<sup>2</sup>

By the Staffordshire inquisition it was found that Adam de Peshale held no lands or tenements of the King *in capite*, either in demesne or in service, in the county of Stafford on the day of his death; but that he held conjointly with his wife Joyce, who was yet surviving, the manor of Bolyngton with its appurtenances in the same county for term of life, the reversion of which belonged to Richard, son of Reginald Mutton of Salop, and Margaret his wife, the daughter of the said Adam and Joyce, and the heirs of their bodies; and that it was held of Humphrey, son and heir of Edmund late Earl of Stafford, by knight's service, and was of the annual value of £10; that the said Adam also held on the day of his death for term of life 20 acres of land and 4 acres of meadow with the appurtenances in Weston and Blumenhull, and a fifth part of the manor of Weston under Luseyord with the appurtenances and of the advowson of the church of the same manor, and a fifth part of the advowson of the church of Blumenhull, by the dimission of Sir Fulk de Pembrugge, knight, which same Fulk de Pembrugge by a certain fine, levied in the King's Court at Westminster on the 15th day from the day of the Holy Trinity, 4 Hen. IV (25 June 1403), and afterwards recorded there in the octave of St. Michael, 5 Hen. IV (7 October 1403),

<sup>1</sup> *cf.* Fat. Roll, 7 Hen. IV, Part 1 *m.* 2. This claim of King Henry IV to the reversion of the manor of Idleshale as having escheated to the Crown was a high-handed and oppressive act, for it appears from the license of alienation, given by Edward III in 1352, that the manor was directed to be settled, in default of issue of Sir Philip ap Rees, upon his brother Rees ap Rees and his nephew John Bluet in tail, and issue of the latter were still living (Duchy of Lancaster Royal Charters, No. 315).

<sup>2</sup> Inq. 7 Hen. V, No. 64.





acknowledged the same premises to be the right of William Mosse, parson of the church of Langporde, and conceded for himself and his heirs that the aforesaid tenements and fifth part of the manor with the appurtenances and the fifth part of the advowson of the aforesaid churches, which the aforesaid Adam held for term of life of the inheritance of the said Fulk in the said vills on the day on which the concord in the said fine was made, and which after the death of the said Adam should revert to the said Fulk and his heirs, should wholly remain after the death of the said Adam to the aforesaid William, Robert Say, parson of the church of Eton Hastyng, and Walter Swan, parson of the church of Ayleston, and the heirs of the same William; that the aforesaid Robert afterwards died, and the aforesaid William Mosse and Walter Swan levied another fine in the King's Court at Westminster on the Morrow of the Ascension in the fifth year of Hen. V (20 May 1417), recorded in the octave of St. Michael, 7 Hen. V (7 October 1419), by which they recognised the aforesaid tenements, fifth part of the manor with the appurtenances and fifth part of the aforesaid advowsons to be the right of Richard Broun, and conceded for themselves and for the heirs of William that the aforesaid tenements, etc., which Adam held for term of life of the inheritance of the said William Mosse on the day in which the concord in the said fine was made, and which after the decease of the same Adam should revert to the same William, should wholly remain after the death of the said Adam to the said Richard, John Bentley, clerk, John Astley, clerk, William Galley, chaplain, and William Fitzherberde, and the heirs of the same Richard<sup>1</sup>; and that accordingly the reversion of the same tenements, fifth part, etc., after the death of the aforesaid Adam, belonged to the same Richard, John Bentley, etc.; that six acres of land and two acres of meadow with the appurtenances in Blumenhull, parcel of the said 20 acres of land and four acres of meadow, and the fifth part of the advowson of the church of Blumenhull, were held of the aforesaid heir of the late Earl of Stafford by knight's service, and were of the annual value of 3s. 4d.; that 14 acres of land and two acres of meadow with the appurtenances in Weston, the remainder of the said 20 acres of land and four acres of meadow, and the fifth part of the aforesaid manor and advowson of the church of the same manor, were held of Sir John Arundel, knight, lord of Arundel, by

<sup>1</sup> For this fine see *Fin. Conc. temp. Hen. V*, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, p. 226.



knight's service, and were of the annual value of 43s. 4d.; and that the said Adam held no other lands or tenements of the said King, or of any one else of the said county, on the day of his death.<sup>1</sup> The jurors also found that the aforesaid Adam died on the Thursday next before the feast of the Apostles Simon and Jude last past (28 October 1419); that Joan, wife of Sir William Birmyng-ham, knight, and Margaret, who had been the wife of Sir Richard Mutton, knight, were his daughters and heirs; and that Joan was 28 years of age and more, and Margaret 26 years and more.<sup>2</sup>

This inquisition shows that the inheritance of one fifth of the manor of Weston was vested in Richard Brond as a trustee under a title derived from Sir Fulk de Pembrugge, but does not show to whom the beneficial interest belonged. We find, however, by a memorandum on a fly-leaf in Blakeway's MSS. in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, entitled "Extracts from the Newport Deeds," that Thomas Newport of Ercall claimed a reversionary interest in a fifth part of the manor of Weston, which Sir Adam de Peshale then held for the term of his life.<sup>3</sup> The date of the fine referred to in this memorandum is not given, but from a comparison with other deeds between the same parties given by Blakeway it seems probable that it was about 12 Hen. IV (1411). In 8 Hen. V (1420) Thomas Newport of Ercall granted the fifth part of the manor of Weston and the fifth part of the advowson of the church to Master Nicholas Peshale, clerk, William Walford, parson of Wythynton, and Roger lenote, parson of Boulewes, *Richard Brond* being one of the witnesses.<sup>4</sup> There can be little doubt that this share was the same as that formerly held by Sir Fulk de Pembrugge, but how it eventually became vested in the descendants of Sir Adam de Peshale we have no evidence to determine. No mention is made of lands or interest in Weston in any subsequent inquisitions of Isabel de Pembrugge, Sir Fulk's widow, or of his heirs the Vernons; nor can we find any further reference to this fifth share in Blakeway's transcript of the Newport Deeds.

<sup>1</sup> The mention of one fifth part only of the manor of Weston in this inquisition is explained by the deed quoted *ante* (p. 80), by which he granted the rest of his manor of Weston to trustees. From the inquisition taken on the death of John Mytton (Inq. 15 Hen. VII, No. 104, quoted *post*, p. 122) it would seem that the legal estate at any rate in the Trumwyn share was still outstanding in the year 1500.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. 7 Hen. V, No. 64.

<sup>3</sup> See *post*, Sec. IV, the Newports, where this memorandum is set out at length.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*



Joyce, the widow of Sir Adam de Peshale, died in the following year, namely on the Monday next before the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (12 August 1420). The inquisition was taken at Stafford on 6 September 1420, and gives the same account of the manor of Bobyngton as that given in the former inquisition. She held no other lands or tenements in the county of Stafford on the day of her death. Her daughter Margaret and her husband Sir Richard Mutton had both predeceased her, leaving issue a son William, to whom the reversion belonged, and who was eight years of age and more at the date of the inquisition. The heirs of Joyce were Elizabeth, wife of Thomas de Ferrers, esquire, Margaret, wife of Hugh Willoughby, and Robert son of Joyce, late wife of Sir Roger Aston, knight, the daughters and coheirs of her son Baldwin Frevill; of whom the said Elizabeth was 26 years of age and more, Margaret 20, and Robert 6.<sup>1</sup>

In Dugdale's "Visitation of Staffordshire," preserved in the College of Arms, are some notes on the monuments in Weston Church taken on 22 September 1663. Among these mention is made of an alabaster gravestone in the chancel on which is the portraiture of a woman with this inscription: "*Hic jacet Jocosu . . . domina de Weston . . . . . Cujus anime propitiatur deus*"; also of an alabaster tomb on the south side of the chancel, with the portraiture of a man in armour, on his surcoat the arms of Peshale, the crest upon his helme lying under his head being a bull's head with roundles on it, and this epitaph: "*Hic jacet Adam Pessale miles dñs de Weston . . . anno dñi M . . . cuius anime propitiatur deus.*"<sup>2</sup>

With Sir Adam de Peshale, who died in 1419, ends the male line of that family at Weston.

According to the pedigree in Add. MS. 18667, drawn up by Sir William Segar, Garter King of Arms, for Richard Weston Earl of Portland in 1632, and reproduced in substance in Harwood's edition of Erdeswick's Staffordshire opposite p. 164, three husbands are assigned to Elizabeth de Weston, viz.: (1) Sir John de Whyston, (2) Sir Henry de Mortimer,<sup>3</sup> and (3) Sir Adam de Peshale; and two Adams de Peshale of Weston are introduced

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 8 Hen. V, No. 79.

<sup>2</sup> cf. Harl. MS. 2129, fo. 171 (195 new notation), being notes of monuments in Weston Church taken apparently *circa* 1660.

<sup>3</sup> This is an obvious mistake. Henry de Mortimer was (as shown above) the former husband of Adam's second wife, Elizabeth ap Rees.





in the pedigree, the second, who married Joyce Bottetort, being made the son of the first Sir Adam and Elizabeth de Weston.<sup>1</sup> Although there is no evidence, so far as we are aware, in support of the existence of two Adams de Peshale of Weston, there is an *a priori* probability in its favour arising from the length of time during which Sir Adam de Peshale figures upon the scene in connection with the manor of Weston, a space of nearly 60 years. Elizabeth de Weston must have been born in or before 1317, for her mother died in that year. Her first husband Sir John de Whyston died in 1359, and supposing her to have married Sir Adam de Peshale in the following year, she must have been then at least 43 years old. If Sir Adam was only 21 at that time, in which case he would be at least 22 years younger than his wife, and lived till 1419, he must have been well over 80 years old when he died. At first sight all this does not appear very probable, but it is certainly not impossible, and it is very difficult, if not impossible, to reconcile any other theory with the proved facts. The Adam de Peshale who married Joyce Bottetort in 1388 and died in 1419, leaving two daughters and coheirs Joan Birmingham and Margaret Mylton, is clearly identified by the Shropshire inquisition taken on his death with the Adam de Peshale who married Elizabeth ap Rees the widow of Sir Henry Mortimer, and this marriage took place in 1369. The petition by Sir Hugh de Wrottesley in 1377-8 shows that it was the same Adam who had two brothers, Sir Richard and Haminet, and a brother-in-law, Thomas Gech (*i.e.* the husband of his sister Isabel). That it was the same Adam who took a release from the Congreves in 1377, acquired the reversion of two shares of the manor of Weston from Stephen de Bromley in 1373, and made the exchange with John Giffard in 1380, is proved by the limitation to Hugh le Mortimer in the former conveyance and by the limitation to Adam's sister Isabel in the two latter conveyances. Now Sir Richard de Peshale was the eldest son of Adam de Peshale of Horseley and Bishop's Offley, who married Joan the widow of Sir Henry de Creswalle, and who was outlawed and killed in 1346, leaving Joan his widow

<sup>1</sup> In the text of Erdeswick's Staffordshire (p. 161), following apparently the Peshale pedigree in the Visitation of Staffordshire 1533 (Harl. MS. 1570, fo. 16b), it is stated that Sir John de Weston "had issue a daughter and heir, married to Adam Peshall, who had issue Adam, who had issue Robert, who had issue Sir Adam Peshall, knight, who had issue Margaret, married to Richard Milton" etc., but this is clearly wrong and gives several generations too many.





and Richard his son and heir<sup>1</sup>; and Haminet, Adam and Isabel must therefore have also been sons and daughter of the same Adam de Peshale. But this is not all. If Adam de Peshale of Weston, who died in 1419, was the son and not the husband of Elizabeth de Weston, he could not have been more than 10 years old in 1369-70 when he married Elizabeth ap Rees, for Elizabeth de Weston's first husband Sir John de Whyston only died in 1359; and he must have been still an infant when he obtained from the King a grant of the custody of the Chelmarsh estates in 1372, when he made all the above mentioned purchases in 1373, 1377 and 1380, and when he entered into the formal arrangement with Sir William Trussell in 1375. And lastly, the devolution of the Champion and Whyston shares, which passed under the two settlements of 1350 to the issue in tail of William Trumwyn and on the exhaustion of all such issue to the ultimate remainderman Stephen de Bromley, is inconsistent with the theory under consideration, for these two shares would not have devolved in this way if there had been any issue living of Elizabeth de Weston.<sup>2</sup>

The early descents of the Peshales are involved in some obscurity, but they soon became a family of considerable eminence, and held lands in various parts of Staffordshire and Shropshire and other counties. According to Chetwynd they derived their descent from the potent and vigorous stock of Swymmerton, though there was an earlier family who bore the local name, whose lands were acquired by the Swymmertons.

From the Chetwynd MS. we learn that Sir John Swymmerton, knight, purchased lands in Peshale from Robert son of Stephen de Peshale and Thomas son of Thomas de Peshale in the reign of King Henry III "together with all the rents, homages, waste, reliefs, services and escheats belonging to the said lands, all of

<sup>1</sup> Ancient Petitions, Nos. 8580 and 11903 (Record Office).

<sup>2</sup> It should be stated here that the late Canon Bridgeman is not responsible for the conclusions put forward in the foregoing pages (pp. 50-98), although they are in a great measure based upon his researches. The view taken by him was that there were two Sir Adams de Peshale of Weston, father and son, and that the first was the husband of Elizabeth de Weston and of Elizabeth ap Rees, the second being the issue of his marriage with Elizabeth de Weston and the husband of Joyce Bottetort. He also traced the devolution of the various shares of the manor somewhat differently. But further evidence which came to light after his death, especially the Shropshire inquisition taken on the death of Sir Adam de Peshale in 1419 and the fuller transcripts of several of the Weston deeds in Add. MS. 18667, showed that the view taken by him on these points was untenable, and necessitated the rewriting of this portion of the work.



*Arms of Barnatigham.*—Party per pale indented *or*, and *sa*, *or*, a bond lozenge *or* (ancient coat).

*Arms of Peshobon.*—*A gy*, a cross formice fleury on a canton *gr*, a wolf's [or lion's] head erased *arg*, crowned *or*.  
*Cost.*—A bull's head charged with roundels.

*Arms of Mytton.*—Party per pale *az*, and *arg*, an eagle displayed with two heads within a bordure engrailed *or*.

living 1521-2,  
*d. s. p.*, *vi*, *pa*,  
 William Clvet  
 wynd Esq.

some expressions for temple  
 field of London, gent., liv-  
 ing 12 June 1530, *d. aob.*—  
 27 Oct. 1553.  
 9 Feb.  
 living  
 4 Feb. 1524.

Edward Haryesfield, assumed surname of Mytton, dan. of Thomas Skrynsher Esq. of Scrynsher, m. 1530, living 1544 as lord of Weston, *gr*, living 17 Jan. March 1570.

Eleonor, dan. of John Mytton, Esq.,  $\overline{\text{M}}^{\text{ary}}$  dan. of John Cokes Esq. of Becht lord of Weston

Thomas Mytton of Shrewsbury,  $\overline{\text{R}}^{\text{ichard}}$   $\overline{\text{P}}^{\text{owell}}$  dan. of Richard Mytton, living 1540 and 1595.

Walter Mytton, living 1570.

William Mytton, living 1570, adm. freeman

— Mary, m. *aob* March 1570 James Nowell of Pelsall.



First—Ancient prescriptive copy of the charters of the Labourers (granted by Henry) : c. 1200 but not a certain copy a wolf's head erased copy. Crest—A wolf's head erased any.

WILBRAHAM, OF WOODHEY AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD.

Assigned from Graunp's Genealogy, 2nd ed., III, 311-320.

Margery or Matilda, old dau. and coheir of Warrin, Baron of England (H. title).

Sir Richard de Wyburgham, lord of Wyntonham and Radnor in right of his 2nd wife, sheriff of Cheshire at Hen. III (1258-9), d. 2 Ed. I (1274-4).

Leith, old dau. and coheir of William de Venables of Wyntonham and Radnor (younger son of Sir William de Venables, Baron of Kinderlacy, com. 12) Sir Philip de Banburyville, and (3) Robert de Crole (2nd wife).

Richard de Wyburgham, son and heir of above, coheir of Ed. I (1272-6).

Matilda, old dau. and coheir of her brother, in right of her husband, in right of Wyntonham.

Agnes, 2nd dau. and coheir of her brother, in right of her husband, in right of Wyntonham.

Christina, dau. of Richard de Wyburgham, coheir of her brother, in right of her husband, in right of Wyntonham.

William de Wyburgham, lord of Radnor and Wyntonham, living 1412, d. 1428-1218.

Leith, old dau. and coheir of her brother, in right of her husband, in right of Wyntonham.

1. William de Wyburgham, coheir of above, d. 1292.

2. Humphrey de Wyburgham of Radnor, ancestor of Wyntonham of Hildesley and Worleston.

3. Robert de Wyburgham, living 1254.

Felicia, dau. of John de Hume (1st wife).

Edith de Wyburgham of Radnor, d. 1186-1187-90.

Marilda, dau. of Robert Lech of Abington, rel. 32 Ric. II (1382-9).

2. Peter de Wyburgham, occ. 1343 and 1350.

Ken de Wyburgham, in Henry of Crannac.

Thomas de Wyburgham, lord of Radnor, b. there and bapt. at Astbury, proved his age 16 Ric. II (1372-4), d. 10 Dec. 1409, aged 38.

Margery, dau. of Thomas de Leintre.

Peter de Wyburgham, son of Burton, gent. 3 Hen. VI (1424-5); who Thomas de Wyburgham left the King's army in North Wales 2 Hen. IV (1400-1), occ. 7 Hen. IV (1405-6).

Thomas de Wyburgham or Wylliam, lord of Radnor, son and heir of above, d. 15 Aug. 1467, had of Waitey, justiciary, d. 15 Aug. 1467.

1. Thomas Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., marriage copy, dated 12 Hen. VI (1442-3), d. 7 Aug. 1492.

Margaret, dau. of Thomas de Wyburgham, succeeded by his wife Alice, dau. of Robert and coheir of Roger de Wyburgham, heir to her mother, d. 10 Aug. 1455, d. 21 March 1504.

2. William de Wyburgham, d. s. p.

4. Richard de Wyburgham.

William Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., son and heir of above, d. 7 Aug. 1492, d. 17 Aug. 1536.

Helen or Helen, dau. of Philip Egerton, Esq.

Alice, m. John Wright of Bredley.

Elizabeth, Thomas Rowley of Hampton, gent.

Jane, m. Laurence Woodcock of Walsley, gent.

Margaret, m. Thomas Hill of Moulton and Hodnet.

Thomas Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., son and heir of above, occ. 13 Hen. VIII (1521-2), d. 40 Hen. VIII (1548-7), d. s. p. 3 July 1558.

Margaret, dau. of Sir John Mynnowing of Peter, Kt.

Richard Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., 2nd son and heir of his brother, M.P. for Cheshire 1 & 2, d. 2 & 3 Ed. 6, M.P. of Jewel House and of Beveke to Queen Mary, Sheriff of Cheshire 1554, d. 8 Aug. 1558.

Dorothy, dau. of Richard Grosvenor of Farnley, Esq., m. to Henry Seale, of Barrow by Sea, Lincol. Esq.

Margaret, m. Thomas Howell of Labley, Esq.

John, m. Ralph Home of Bickings, Esq. Elizabeth, m. John Wynne of Thurston, Esq. Margery, m. Ralph Whelock, Esq.

Frances, dau. of Sir Hugh Cholmondeley of Chilton, Kt. (1st wife).

Thomas Wylliam of Woodley and Toston, son and heir, aged 5 in 1560, in 1570, d. 2 July 1617, bar at Aston co. Chester 1612.

Mary, old dau. and coheir of Peter Worsbarn of Arley, Esq., by his wife Mary, dau. of John Ingham of Holt, Esq., m. 25 Jan. 1587 (2nd wife).

Richard Wylliam of Worleston, a trustee for Sir Richard Ingham.

1. Sir Richard Grace, dau. of Sir John Wylliam of Woodley, Kt., m. Sir John Savage, of Back Savage, b. Margery, d. Thomas, 1st April 1648, bar at Aston.

Dorothy, m. Elizabeth, m. Sir John Savage, of Back Savage, b. Margery, d. Thomas, 1st April 1648, bar at Aston.

2. Thomas Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., m. Sir John Savage, of Back Savage, b. Margery, d. Thomas, 1st April 1648, bar at Aston.

3. Hugh Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., m. Sir Andrew Holborn, in London, m. d. Margaret, dau. of Richard Grosvenor, of Eaton, Esq., m. d. Elizabeth, dau. of Henry Heron, of Throckley co. Herek, Esq.

4. William Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., m. Frances, m. Anne, m. John Brindley, of Brindley, m. d. 1665.

5. John Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., m. Mary, m. d. 1665.

Sir Thomas Wylliam of Woodley, Kt. and baronet, aged 12 in 1641, gent. from Baron of Aston Park 1625, d. 31 Oct. 1660.

Elizabeth, 2nd dau. and coheir of Sir Roger Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., coheir of Sir John Savage, of Back Savage, b. Margery, d. Thomas, 1st April 1648, bar at Aston.

2. Richard Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., m. Sir John Savage, of Back Savage, b. Margery, d. Thomas, 1st April 1648, bar at Aston.

3. Ralph Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., m. Sir John Savage, of Back Savage, b. Margery, d. Thomas, 1st April 1648, bar at Aston.

4. William Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., m. Frances, m. Anne, m. John Brindley, of Brindley, m. d. 1665.

5. Elizabeth Wylliam, m. Sir Humphrey Briggs, of Houghton co. Salop, Bart., d. 25 June 1659, aged 27, bar at St. Michael's, Chester.

Sir Thomas Wylliam of Woodley, baronet, aged 12 in 1641, gent. from Baron of Aston Park 1625, d. 31 Oct. 1660.

Elizabeth, dau. and coheir of Sir Roger Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., coheir of Sir John Savage, of Back Savage, b. Margery, d. Thomas, 1st April 1648, bar at Aston.

2. Hugh Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., m. Sir John Savage, of Back Savage, b. Margery, d. Thomas, 1st April 1648, bar at Aston.

3. Hugh Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., m. Sir John Savage, of Back Savage, b. Margery, d. Thomas, 1st April 1648, bar at Aston.

4. Ralph Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., m. Sir John Savage, of Back Savage, b. Margery, d. Thomas, 1st April 1648, bar at Aston.

5. William Wylliam of Woodley, Esq., m. Frances, m. Anne, m. John Brindley, of Brindley, m. d. 1665.

Elizabeth Wylliam, old dau. in 5 June 1622 Sir Thomas Wylliam of Chirk, Castle co. Denbigh, Bart., d. 6 June 1622, s. p.

Grace Wylliam, 2nd dau. and coheir of above, b. 24 March 1626, m. at Weston 30 Sep. 1649 Sir Ludovick Bunningford and 2nd Earl of Byrry, who d. 1726-7; d. 1754 (Inherited Wylliam estates in co. Cheshire).

Mary Wylliam, 2nd dau. and coheir of above, b. 11 June 1631, m. at Weston 20 April 1654 Richard Newport, 2nd Earl of Bradford, d. 17 Dec. 1727 (Inherited Wylliam and other Mytton estates and also Wylliam estates in co. Staffs.).

Elizabeth, dau. and coheir of Sir Roger Wylliam, ancestor of the Earl of Flound.

Cecilia Wylliam, 4th dau. b. 17 May 1657, d. 1678, bur. at Weston 23 June 1669.

Elizabeth Wylliam, dau. of Sir Roger Wylliam, m. 19 July 1641, m. Sir John Davies of Gwynedd on Flim, and Llanerch Park co. Denbigh, Esq. (Inherited Flound estates in London 1658).





which were given by Sir John to his younger son Richard, who seating himself there assumed the name of Peshall and was the progenitor of that family which in succeeding ages arose to very great eminence and esteem in this and the neighbouring counties, his descendants matching with the heirs of Weston, Caverswall, Chetwynd, Knightley, Malpas and Swymerton, with whom they had great possessions in this county [Stafford] and in Cheshire and Shropshire; but as they advanced their fortunes by their marriages so the greatest part of their lands were afterwards passed away with heirs female, the only surviving male branch being that of Horseley and Suggenhall [adjoining to Peshall].<sup>1</sup>

Erdeswick says: "I have seen a deed, made (as I take it) in the time of Henry III, whereby *Robertus, filius Stephani de Peshall delit il'no Johanni de Swianerton totam terram suam in Peshall, cum demibus et redditibus, scriitiis, homagiis, wardis, r'heriis et escheatis ac totam terram quam emit de Thoma filio Thome de Peshall*; and these be *Testes* to the deed, Sir Robert de Knightley, Sir Robert de Bromley, Sir Philip de Mutton, Roger de Charnes, Thomas de Tittuesoure, Ivo de eadem, Robert de Joneston."<sup>2</sup> This deed is quoted by Erdeswick in corroboration of his opinion, there stated, that the Peshales "derived themselves *ab origine* paternally from the Swymertons, for they bare their armoury, as moving from them; Swimmerton bearing Argent, a cross formé fleury sable; and now Peshall beareth the same, with a canton gules, charged with Richard Earl of Chester's wolf's head. But the first sir Richard that I read of (whom I take to be the son of sir John Swimmerton), and his heirs, bare it without the canton, and only charged Swinnerton's coat with an escutcheon of Ramulph second earl of Chester, viz. Gules, a lion valiant argent."<sup>3</sup> After quoting the deed as given above he proceeds: "The same sir Richard dwelt, as I take it, at Peshall, and had issue a younger son called Adam, which I suppose was the man that took the canton and wolf's head for his difference: for I have seen a seal of his son, sir Richard Peshall, with the same cross, canton, and wolf's head for his armoury. This Adam married one of the daughters and heirs of the aforementioned John Caverswall, and had Bishop's Offley by reason thereof; for whose better advancement, his father (as I take it) gave him Horseley, to make him a marriage fit for an

<sup>1</sup> Chetwynd MS. in the William Salt Library at Stafford.

<sup>2</sup> Erdeswick's "Ant. of Staff." (Harwood's ed.), p. 128.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*



heiress, who by her had issue sir Richard Peshall, knt., who married Joan, daughter and heir of Reginald, son and heir of sir John Chetwind, of Chetwind, knt."<sup>1</sup>

This account of Adam de Peshale given by Erdeswick is not quite correct. It was not the daughter and heir of John de Caverswall by whom Adam de Peshale obtained Bishop's Offley. This manor was acquired by his marriage with Joan, the daughter of John de Eyton and relict of Sir Henry de Creswalle or Ketswell (which is an altogether different family from Caverswall, though it has often been confounded with it), which Henry had held it of John de Eyton of Eyton on the Wyldmore by military service. On the death of Sir Henry de Cresswalle John de Eyton took the manor into his own hands to hold till the lawful age of Joan and Elizabeth the daughters and heirs of Sir Henry, and held it until Adam de Peshale married Joan, the relict of Sir Henry and daughter of the said John de Eyton, at which time John permitted Adam to enter upon the said manor for the help and maintenance of the said Joan his wife and of Joan and Elizabeth the daughters and heirs of Henry, to hold at the will of the said John de Eyton, and Adam held the said manor all his life, and after his death Simon de Ruggeley the Sheriff took it into the King's hands together with all the other lands of the said Adam.<sup>2</sup>

These were lawless and turbulent times, and Adam was, like many others of his family, undoubtedly a man of violence. In the early part of the reign of Edward III he fell under the King's displeasure for sundry breaches of the peace, and several knights and others of the county of Stafford were commissioned to arrest him and bring him in alive or dead. After being followed from place to place he was at length taken at Caynton in Shropshire and beheaded. Thereupon a writ, dated from Porchester on 27 May 20 Ed. III (1346), was issued, stating that "whereas we lately assigned our trusty and well beloved Robert de Ferrars to arrest Adam de Peshale, a common malefactor, notoriously accused of various homicides and other felonies, and to bring him in dead or alive, and with power to depnte others in his place to perform and execute the same, and the said Adam having broken his attachment '*et legem regni nostri diffugiens noluit stare juri*' we have pardoned etc. John de Ipstones, William

<sup>1</sup> ErJeswick's "Ant. of Staff." (Harwood's ed.), pp. 128, 129.

<sup>2</sup> *Placita* co. Staff., No. 27, being a Chancery Inquisition taken at Brelaughton on Tues. day the feist of St. John Baptist, 20 Ed. III (29 Aug. 1346).



Trumwyn, Thomas de Creswall, William Trumwyn bastard, John Inmer (?) of Whitegreve, John de Chestershire, John de Breydeshale, William Williamsmon<sup>1</sup> Tromwyn, John son of William Rowe of Norton, and Thomas Williamschamberleyn<sup>2</sup> Tromwyn, who had been deputed by the said Robert, and who, pursuing the said Adam as a felon, took him at Kaynton in co. Salop "*attachiamtunqne fugientem et legi dicti regni nostri obedire venuentem attachiando, sicut vis de jure licuit, decollaverunt*" etc."<sup>3</sup> Apparently this pardon was not considered full enough; for on 7 July another pardon was issued by the Custos, Lionel the King's son, which, using the same words as the other, pardoned the following persons for the same act, viz.: John de Ipstanes, William Tromewyne, Thomas de Kerswell, John de Breydeshale, John de Chestreshyre, John de Whytegrave, John de Norton, Thomas Chamberlein, Ralph de Ipstanes, William de Somerford, Alexander de Whytington, William de Whytington, Adam Galpyn and Thomas Rousleigh.<sup>4</sup>

By another writ, dated 16 July and issued by the Custos, Henry de Greystok and John de Okovere were deputed to make enquiry into the value and extent of the goods and chattels of Adam de Peshale "*nuper rebellis nostri*," which had been forfeited by his rebellion, and which had been concealed and removed.<sup>5</sup>

Another writ, issued by the Custos and dated from Windsor 20 July, is addressed to Thomas de Halghton, Henry de Graystoke, and John de Okore, and states that, whereas John de Eyton of Wydemores had shown to us that he had taken possession of the manor of Creswalle after the death of Henry de Cressewalle, chivaler, who had held it of him by military service, and the custody of which belonged to him till the lawful age of the daughters and heirs of the said Henry, and he had demised it to Joan, formerly wife of the said Henry, to be held by her at will until the full age of the said daughters and heirs, and the said manor had been taken into the King's hand for certain causes amongst other lands and tenements lately belonging to Adam de Peshale, late husband of the said Joan; the King wishing to be certified of the facts, the said Thomas, Henry and John were required to return whether the

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* William, William Trumwyn's man.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* Thomas, William Trumwyn's chamberlain.

<sup>3</sup> Pat. Roll, 20 Ed. III, Part 2, m. 30.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, m. 10.

<sup>5</sup> Pat. Roll, 20 Ed. III (*ex inf.* Maj.-Gen. the Hon. G. Wrottesley).





said manor was held of the said John de Eyton by military service or not, and if the custody of it belonged to the said John or not, and if the said John after the death of Henry had demised it to the said Joan, and if the heirs are of full age, and if the said Henry held elsewhere of us *in capite*.<sup>1</sup>

But Adam de Peshale's lands, though taken into the hands of the King on his death, were afterwards restored to his family. The matter appears to have been discussed in Parliament and decided before the Council, and Adam not having been convicted of any felony, the Sheriff was ordered to deliver all his lands etc. to Richard his son and heir.<sup>2</sup>

Adam de Peshale's wife Joan survived him, and was still living in 1377.<sup>3</sup> He left issue, either by her or by a former wife, Sir Richard his eldest son and heir, who became lord of Chetwynd co. Salop by marriage with Joan, daughter and heir of Reginald, son and heir apparent of Sir John de Chetwynd of Chetwynd, knight, and died about the year 1387; John, who petitioned the King for his father's lease of the fruits of the church of Sandon<sup>4</sup>; Sir Hamo, or Haminet, who became lord of Willey by his marriage with Alice, daughter and heir of Sir Robert Harley of Harley and Willey, knight, and who afterwards married another wife named Thomasine, the heiress of the Wasteneys of Colton<sup>5</sup>; Sir Adam, who married the Weston coheiress; and Isabel, the wife of Thomas Geeh de Newport. Perhaps Sir Adam and Isabel may have been children of Joan, the others more probably the issue of a previous marriage.

Some further information about the early descents of the Peshale family may be gathered from Blakeway. There was a Richard de Peshale, who was Sheriff of Staffordshire and Salop in 1333 and 1334 and again as a knight in 1339, and an Adam de Peshale, who was Sheriff of the same counties in 1341. Again, there was a Richard de Peshale, Sheriff of Salop in 1374 and

<sup>1</sup> Pat. Roll, 20 Ed. III, m. 11, *dorso* (ex. inf. Maj.-Gen. Hon. G. Wrottesley).

<sup>2</sup> Memorandum Roll, 26 Ed. III (ex. inf. Maj.-Gen. Hon. G. Wrottesley).

<sup>3</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, pp. 9, 57, 105, 117, 126.

<sup>4</sup> Eyton's "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. VIII, pp. 88-99; Duke's "Ant. of Shrop.," p. 167; Erdeswick's "Ant. of Staff.," p. 129; Ancient Petitions (Record Office), Nos. 8580 and 11903; "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, p. 187; Vol. XVI, p. 24; Inq. 12 Ric. II, No. 76.

<sup>5</sup> Ancient Petitions (Record Office), Nos. 646 and 11903; Inq. *at quod damnum*, 22 Ed. III, No. 40.

<sup>6</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 160; Vol. XV, p. 15.





1375 and as a knight in 1376, and an Adam de Peshale, Sheriff of Salop in 1398 and 1418.<sup>1</sup> Blakeway identifies the Sheriff for the year 1333 with the Sir Richard de Peshale who married Joan the Chetwynd heiress, and suggests that Adam de Peshale, Sheriff in 1341, was probably his half brother.<sup>2</sup> Under the year 1374 he makes no special remarks, but apparently considers that the Sheriff for that year was the same person as the Sheriff in 1333. In speaking of Robert Tiptoft the Sheriff for 1412, who married Joan de Chetwynd, Sir Richard de Peshale's widow, he calls attention to the remarkable interval—no less than 79 years—which according to this hypothesis separated the shrievalties of her two husbands,<sup>3</sup> but it does not appear to have occurred to him that there were two Sir Richards de Peshale. There can however be no doubt that this was the fact, and it is conclusively proved by two fines levied in the same year, 17 Ed. III (1343), one by Richard de Peshale, *chivaler*, and *Margery* his wife, daughter of Hugh de Knyghton, of land in Eccleshall, Peshale and elsewhere,<sup>4</sup> and the other by John de Chetewynde, *chivaler*, of the manors of Weston near Assheleye and Chetewynde, by virtue of which a settlement was made upon his granddaughter *Joan* and her husband Richard son of Adam de Peshale.<sup>5</sup> The last mentioned Richard was undoubtedly the Sheriff of 1374 to 1376, son of Adam de Peshale Sheriff in 1341, and elder brother of Adam de Peshale Sheriff in 1398 and 1418. The other Richard de Peshale, who is described as *chivaler* in 1343, and who married Margery de Knyghton, would be the Sheriff of 1333, 1334 and 1339, and was probably the elder brother of the Adam de Peshale who was Sheriff in 1341 and upon whom (or whose issue) the family estates at Peshale seem to have eventually devolved.

The parentage of Adam de Peshale, Sheriff in 1341, is not clear, but the probability is that he is the same person as the Adam *son of Adam* de Peshale, who was charged together with Geoffrey, formerly Beadle of Eccleshall, for an act of violence in the house of Thomas le Walkere of Offeleye in 1323<sup>6</sup>: and it is by no means unlikely that this Adam de Peshale (the father) was identical with Adam de *Whethales*, to whom William de Pesall and Dorea

<sup>1</sup> Blakeway's "Sheriffs of Shropshire," pp. 10-12.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 51.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 61.

<sup>4</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, p. 153.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 187.

<sup>6</sup> Coram Rege Roll, 17 Ed. II ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. X, Part I, pp. 45, 46).



his wife gave by deed without date [*qu. circ.* 1285] *totam terram et pratum in villa de Pesale*, which he had held of Lucy, who had been the wife of Thomas de Pesale, for the term of her life, except nine acres of land which the said Adam released to the said William and Dorea, to hold to him and his heirs and assigns for ever, with all the liberties and easements belonging to the said lands and fields, at a rent of one penny payable at Christmas for all suit and service.<sup>1</sup> We find that Adam de Whethales left a widow Anne, living in 1315, and sons named Richard, John and Adam living in 1319.<sup>2</sup>

We must now return to the coheirs of Sir Adam de Peshale of Weston, who, as we have seen, died in 1419 leaving by his last wife, Joyce de Bottetort, two daughters as his coheirs. On his death, and that of his wife Joyce in the following year, his manors and lands together with the manor of Bobyngton, which was settled upon Joyce and the heirs of her body by him, were divided between their daughter Joan, wife of Sir William Birmingham, knight, and William Mytton, son and heir of Sir Richard Mutton or Mytton, knight, by his wife Margaret, the other daughter of Sir Adam de Peshale and Dame Joyce.

Joan, the elder daughter, had the manor of Thomenhorn with lands in Rugeley, Hondesacre, etc. Her husband, Sir William, died on 24 April 4 Hen. VI (1426),<sup>3</sup> and in the following year we find her suing for dower out of the manor of Birmingham.<sup>4</sup> It was their son and heir William, about 19 years of age at the time of his father's death, who by deed dated on the Sunday next after the feast of St. Thomas the Martyr, 36 Hen. VI (1 Jan. 1458), as Sir William Birmingham, knight, son and heir of the Lady Joan de Birmingham, appointed his brother Thomas Birmingham his attorney to enter, retake, recover, and hold all those lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services, with the appurtenances, which were of the property and inheritance of the said Joan within the manors of Thomenhorn, Rugeley and Hondesacre in the county of Stafford, and which formerly belonged to Adam de Peshale.<sup>5</sup> But the manor of Weston, with lands at Weston, Blymhill,

<sup>1</sup> Hamper's MS. at William Salt Library, Stafford.

<sup>2</sup> "Staff. Col.," Vol. IX, Part 1, pp. 56, 79, 82, 84, 92.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 5 Hen. VI, No. 15.

<sup>4</sup> De Banco Roll, Trin. 5 Hen. VI ("Staff. Col.," Vol. XVII, p. 116).

<sup>5</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 21b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 91 (from original at Weston). The seal has the arms of Birmingham, viz.: quarterly, 1 and 4, party per pale



etc., and the manors of Newton and Bolyngton, passed to William Mytton the other coheir; and the manor of Thomenhorn, with lands in Rugeley, etc., also shortly afterwards came to the Myttons, probably by purchase from the Birmingham.

The last direct representative in the male line of Joan was that Edward Birmingham who was born about 12 Hen. VII (1496-7), and whose inheritance was wrested from him by John Dudley, Earl of Warwick and Duke of Northumberland, in the time of King Henry VIII. Dugdale gives a pedigree of this family in his "History of Warwickshire,"<sup>1</sup> in which, although Joan de Peshale is not mentioned, the dates and Christian names of that branch which continued the male line of Birmingham agree with those of the branch into which she married, but it does not appear that any of this branch died possessed of her estates.

This junior line apparently succeeded to the manor of Birmingham by special entail on the extinction of the senior line, which held the manor of Birmingham under the Barons of Dudley, and which ended in an heiress Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas and niece of Sir John de Birmingham, in the time of Richard II, which Elizabeth was married to Thomas de la Roche.

Dugdale, in speaking of this junior branch, which he takes up with William, who was contemporary with and no doubt the same person as Sir William de Birmingham the husband of Joan de Peshale, states that he had two brothers, viz. Sir John (who was living in 38 Hen. VI (1460), the father of a daughter and heiress Elizabeth, wife of Baldwin son of Richard Bracebrig), and Thomas de Birmingham, esquire of the body to King Henry VI in 46 Hen. VI (1468). His account is as follows: "The inheri-

indented, 2 and 3, a bend lozenge. In Harl. MS. 2129, fo. 195, are sketches (taken *circa* 1660) of two shields, viz.: (1) quarterly, 1 and 4, party per pale indented *arg.* and *sa.* (the Birmingham coat first adopted by Sir Henry de Birmingham), and 2 and 3, *az.* a bend lozenge *or* (the old Birmingham arms); and (2) party per pale indented *arg.* and *sa.* (Birmingham), impaling *arg.* a cross formé fleury *sa.*, on a canton *gu.* a lion's or wolf's head erased *arg.* crowned *or* (Peshale); and beneath them the kneeling figures of a man and a woman in surcoat and mantle with their respective arms corresponding to the shields above. These are stated to be then "in the window by the pulpit in Weston Chappell." (These two shields still exist, and have now been inserted in the east window, but the figures are gone.) Sketches are also given in the same MS. of two other shields, which are stated to be then "in another place in the same side by the pulpit there," viz.: (1) *or.* a cross engrailed *sa.* (Bottetort) and (2) *arg.* a cross formé fleury *sa.*, on a canton *gu.* a lion's or wolf's head erased *arg.* crowned *or* (Peshale). (These latter do not now exist.)

<sup>1</sup> Thomas's edition, pp. 898, 901-2.





tance of this Lordship [of Birmingham] was by some entail (as it seems) settled upon the heir male of the family, viz. another William de Bermingham, son of William, son (if I mistake not)<sup>1</sup> to John, uncle to the before mentioned Sir Fowk [father of Sir John, the last direct heir male]: for it appears that in 20 Ric. 2, he confirm'd unto certain feoffees, to the use of the Lady Elizabeth, then the wife of Sir John de Clinton (but formerly of Sir John de Birmingham), an estate for life in this manour [of Birmingham], saving the reversion to himself and his heirs; and yet styled himself *Domiaus de Bermingham*, before her death, as is evident by his presentation of a priest in 4 H. 4, to Clodshades Chantrie, in the Church of Saint Martin here at Bermingham: . . . This William Burmyneham was not much inferiour to any of his ancestors, for publik employments in this countie [Warwick]. In 1 H. 5 he served as one of the knights for this shire, in the Parliament then held at Westminster: yet afterwards till 17 H. 6 he<sup>2</sup> lived retired, as it seems, but then he was first put in commission for conservation of the peace, and the same year had a special exemption, that no purveyor, or victualler should take any provision within his lordship, for the expences of the King's household; in which patent the King calls him *dilectus armiger noster*. . . . In 21 H. 6, he underwent the office of Shiriff for this countie and Leicestershire. In 27 he was a knight. In 28 he was a commissioner for assessing a subsidie then granted to the King in Parliament; as also for treating with the people about lending money to the King: but after H. 6 time, I do not find him made use of for any publik service, whereby I conclude

<sup>1</sup> This conjecture of Dugdale's seems to have been not quite accurate. According to the pedigree put forward by William de Birmingham in a suit in 1412 respecting lands in Birmingham which, as he alleged, Sir Henry de Birmingham, knight, had settled upon his ancestor Sir William de Birmingham, knight, and the heirs male of his body, he was son of William, son of William, brother of Fulk and uncle of John, the last direct heir male (De Banco Roll, Mich. 14 Hen. IV, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVII, p. 42).

<sup>2</sup> The pedigree given by Dugdale, as well as his written account, rather confuses two generations together. The Sir William mentioned in the earlier portion of the account was the husband of Joan Peshale. He was dead in 5 Hen. VI (1427), when his widow Joan sued Sir Edmund Ferrers and Elena his wife and George Longvyle (the representatives of the heirs general in the senior line) for dower ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVII, p. 116). The Sir William mentioned in the rest of the account was their son and heir, who died 28 March 18 Ed. IV (1478) seized of the manor of Birmingham (Inq. 18 Ed. IV, No. 17). Thomas Birmingham, the Esquire of the King's Body, was a younger son of the former and brother of the latter Sir William.



that he adhered to the House of Lancaster; for he died not till 18 E. 4, leaving William his son and heir then thirty years of age; I am of opinion that Thomas Bermingham, whom King H. 6 made one of the Esquires for his Body, was brother to this Sir William: which Thomas in 24 H. 6 had the grant of an annuities of L. marks to receive during life, for his daily attendance upon the same King's person, as Esquire of his Body; and within two years after was made Master of the King's Hawks, having a grant of the manour called The Mews, with the appurtenances, in reversion after the death of Sir Ralph Cromwell knight, to hold for his life, with all the fees belonging to that office. But passing from him I come to the last Sir William Bermingham<sup>1</sup> of this family: of whom I can say no more, than that he wedded Isabell the daughter and heir of William Hilton, and by her had issue William, who departed this life 7 Junii 15 H. 7, leaving Edward his grandchild and heir, not much above three years old; whose wardship, being in 17 H. 7. granted by the King, to Edw. Lord Dudley, together with the custody of the lands of his inheritance; *viz.* the manours of Over Worton, Nether Worton, Moch Tewe, Lytil Tewe, and Shutford, *in com. Oxon.* Hogston *in com. Buck.* Byllesley *in com. Wigorn.* and this of Bermyngham, was purchased, it seems, by Elizabeth Bermyngham his mother; for I find that she afterwards sold it to William Conigsby serjeant at law.

“This Edward happened to be the last of the family, that had to do here: for, being contemporary with that ambitious man John Dudley, afterwards Viscount Lisle (more commonly known by those greater titles which he sometime had, *viz.*, Earl of Warwick and Duke of Northumberland) he was strangely wrested out of this lordship: for the said John having possesst himself of Dudley Castle . . . and observing Bermingham a fit ornament for so noble a seat, but being the principall residence of such a family as had for some hundreds of years enjoy'd it, not likely to be purchased from the then rightfull owner, conspired by a wicked stratagem, to work him out of it, which he soon put in practice; the story whereof is in substance thus, as by tradition from divers discreet persons I have heard: *viz.* that Dudley did set on some of his agents to lodge in Bermingham, and to learn when Master Bermingham was to ride out from home; which being accordingly

<sup>1</sup> That is the last mentioned Sir William Birmingham (the son), who died in 1478, leaving a son William, then aged 30, his heir (Inq. 18 Ed. IV, No. 17).



done, they so contrived their business, that one of their plot should ride leisurely before, so that they might soon, keeping but an ordinary pace, overtake him; whereupon they watch an opportunity to strike into Master Bermingham's company, as Travailers, with whom they soberly rode for a while; but being come up to their confederate, forthwith set upon him for his purse, so that the villain thus seemingly rob'd, makes pursuit after them, and likewise after Master Bermingham, as one of the pack; who being thereupon apprehended and prosecuted, apparently saw his danger. The business therefore now working according to Dudley's first design, there were others employed to Mr. Bermingham with overture, how he might save his life, *viz.* to make the Viscount L'isle his friend, in giving up this lordship of Bermingham to him; which, that it might bear the better colour, and be the more valid, was performed by yielding it to the King, and ratified by a special Act of Parliament, the tenor whereof was as followeth:

“Where Edward Byrmingham, late of Byrmingham in the countie of Warwick Esquire, otherwise callid Edward Byrmingham Esquire, ys, and standyth lawfully, indettid to our Sovereing Lord the Kyng in diverse grete summes of money; and also standyth at the mercy of his Highness, for that the same Edward ys at this present convicted of Felony; our seide sovereign Lord the Kyng ys contentid and pleased, that for and in recompence and satisfaction to his grace of the seyde summes of money, to accept and take of the seyde Edward, the Mannour and Lordship of Byrmingham, otherwise callèd Byrmincham, with the appurtenances, lying and being in the countie of Warwick, and all and singular other lands and tenements, reversions, rents, services, and hereditaments of the same Edward Byrmingham, set lying and beyng in the countie of Warwick afforesayde. Be yt therefore ordeyned and enacted, by the autorite of this present Parliament, that our saide sovereigne Lord the Kyng, shall have, hold and enjoy to him, his heirs and assignes, for ever, the seide Mannour and Lordship of Byrmingham (&c.). In which act there is a reservation of xl li *per an.* to the said Edward, and Elizabeth his wife, during their lives.’

“Howbeit, after this, it was no less than nine years, e're the grant of it from the Crown, to the said Viscount L'isle, was made; for it bears not date till December 21, 37 H. 8 (perhaps on purpose, so deferred, that the world might the less censure him for





this hard dealing), at which time the inheritance thereof, together with the Burgh of Bermingham and patronage of the Rectorie, late belonging unto the before specified Edward Bermingham, were past unto him, with other lands lying in the counties of Salop. Heref. and Worcester."<sup>1</sup>

This Edward Birmingham, who was the son of Nicholas and grandson of William Birmingham, had issue by his wife Elizabeth a daughter and heir Anne, wife of Richard Atkinson.<sup>2</sup>

It should be observed that neither in this grant, nor in that made to Edward Lord Dudley in 17 Hen. VII, nor yet in the Inquisition of 18 Ed. IV, is there any mention of lands in Staffordshire; and John Mytton of Weston, the son of William, son of Sir Richard and Margaret, died seised of the manor of Thomenhorn in 1500, so the probability is that it was before 1479 that this manor was conveyed to the Myttons by Sir William de Birmingham.

The manors of Thomenhorn and Rugeley were purchased, as has been shown, by Sir Adam de Peshale from a family bearing the local name of Thomenhorne.

On the death of Joyce, relict of Sir Adam de Peshale, the manors of Weston, Blymhill and Newton, together with the Bottetort manor of Bobington, passed to the issue of Margaret Mutton, Mytton, or Mitton, which Margaret was living as the relict of Sir Richard Mutton on 20 December 1419, but deceased before 12 August 1420, the date of her mother's death.

<sup>1</sup> Dugdale's Warwickshire, pp. 901, 902.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 898.





### III. THE MYTTONS AND WILBRAHAMS. (A.D. 1419-1705.)

The family of Mutton had long been seated at Shrewsbury, where they held many lauds and houses, and took a leading part in the affairs of the town. Blakeway says that the various Shropshire families of Mytton gave originally for their arms the spread eagle, borrowed evidently from a very ancient family of Mitton, seated at a place of the same name in Lancashire, whose arms were : *per pale azure and purple, an eagle displayed with two heads* ; but he does not know of anything to corroborate the assumption that they came from that Lancashire family.<sup>1</sup> He states that "some of the visitations bring the Myttons out of Wiltshire, but there is reason to believe they were originally of this county [*i.e.* Salop], and sprung from the village of Mitton, in the parish of Fittes. In the Tallage Roll for Shrewsbury of the year 1313, which contains a catalogue of the names and property of the inhabitants, William de Mutton is found to have 20s. in goods, for which he is rated at 16*d.*, and he is the only person of that name in the roll. John de Mitton appears upon the Roll of the Gild merchant of the liberty of the town of Salop, 46 E. III, *de forenseis*, which denotes, I presume, that he was a foreigner, and not a native of the town."<sup>2</sup>

Blakeway goes on to say : "The first undoubted ancestor of the Halston family is Hankyn Mitton, an usual abbreviation of Henry. Reginald de Mutton, son of Hankyn, held premises in Shrewsbury, in 1413 ; and of the wealth and importance of this gentleman some notion may be formed from the fact that he lent Richard II (and I apprehend that it was during the residence of that capricious Monarch at the parliament of Shrewsbury) the sum of forty marks, a considerable sum in those days, and more than a fourth part of what was advanced by the Corporation upon the same occasion. By a writ, dated the 10th of August, in the 21st of his reign [1397], the King acknowledges this service of his beloved and faithful Reginald de Mitton, and promises 'in good faith' to repay the same in the quindene of the ensuing Easter." Blakeway

<sup>1</sup> Blakeway's "Sheriffs of Shropshire," p. 77 *n.*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 77, 78.



does not state on what authority he calls Reginald de Mutton the son of *Hankyn*, and this is certainly incorrect, for (he is speaking of the ancestor of the Myttons of Halston and therefore can mean no other Reginald) in more than one deed hereafter referred to this Reginald de Mutton describes himself as the son of *Thomas de Mutton*.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Morris Jones in his account of the Myttons of Garth, a cadet branch of the Halston family, contributed to the Montgomeryshire Historical Collections,<sup>2</sup> states that there is in the possession of the family an ancient vellum roll, purporting to be a pedigree of the Mytton family, in which the first nine generations are given as follows:—

Sir Everard de Mutton, knight. "This Everard was slain in the Wars of Masode the Empresse, An'o Dom. 1154." He had a son,

Alured de Mutton, Esq., who had a son,

Sir Hugh de Mutton, knight, who had a son,

Roger de Mutton, who married Ann, daughter of Richard Hussey, Esq., son of Richard Hussey, of Aldridge Hussey, by his wife Mabella, daughter to John Lord Talbot, son of Sir Radulphus Hussey, knight, son of Adam Hussey, Esq., son and heir of Thomas Hussey "that came in with the Conqueror." Roger de Mutton had a son,

Stephea de Mutton, who married Jane, daughter of Lord Strange, son of Philip Lord Strange of Knocking, by his wife Joyce, daughter to Sir Richard Corbet, knight. Stephen de Mutton had a son,

Owen de Mutton, who married Joyce, daughter of William Purcell of Marton and Wynnesberge, Esq., by his wife Joyce, daughter of William Wynesbury, Esq., and by her had a son,

Philip de Mutton, Esq., who married Anne, daughter of Sir Henry Vernon, knight, by his wife Anne, daughter of Sir John Constable, knight, and by her had a son,

William de Mutton, who married Joyce, daughter of Sir William Pickering, knight, by his wife Eliza'eth, daughter of Sir Adam Raysford, knight, and had a son,

John de Mutton, who married Anne, daughter of Sir Paul Dorrell, knight, son of Sir Francis, son of Sir Paul Dorrell, knight, by his wife Anne, daughter of Sir Roger Powis, knight. John de Mutton had two sons,

1. . . . de Mutton, Esq., first son. "Mem'dum. That of Hankyn de Mutton's brother all the Muttons of Weston-

<sup>1</sup> MS. Family Deeds, from the Shrewsbury Exchequer, forming part of the Halston MSS., and now at Weston in the possession of the Earl of Bradford; *cf.* also transcript of Mytton deeds, also forming part of the Hulston MSS., and now in the possession of the Rev. Ernest Bridgeman, Rector of Blymhill (hereafter referred to as 'Mytton MS. at Blymhill Rectory'), fo. 73.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. XXIV, p. 277.



under Lysyerde, and now being ended by a daughter that married Harpesfield do likewise continue the name of Mytton.<sup>2</sup>

2. Hankyn de Mutton.

This pedigree accords with Blakeway's account in making Hankyn the father of the Reginald de Mutton who married the heiress of Sir Hamo Vaughan and was the ancestor of the Myttons of Halston, which has already been shown to be incorrect. But there is nothing inconsistent with known facts in the statement of the memorandum quoted above, that the Myttons of Weston were descended from an elder brother of Hankyn.

The probability is that the predecessor of Thomas the father of Reginald was Richard de Mutton, who occurs in the years 1333 and 1342 as holding tenements in the Frankeville suburb of Shrewsbury.<sup>1</sup> However this may be, Thomas de Mutton, burgess of Shrewsbury, is the first we can positively identify as the direct ancestor of this family. He was fourth on the roll of the Guild Merchant of Shrewsbury in 18 Ed. III (1344),<sup>2</sup> and was bailiff of that town in 1352<sup>3</sup> and in 1360.<sup>4</sup> In 23 Ed. III (1349) he takes a release from Richard son of Richard Beget of Salop in respect of a tenement in Frankevyle extending from the highway leading to Gadiganescros to another highway leading to Monkemoele.<sup>5</sup> In 31 Ed. III (1357) Roger son of Roger Collyngs of Herford grants to Thomas de Mutton of Salop all the lands etc. which he has held by the law of England since the death of his wife Joan,<sup>6</sup> and in 35 Ed. III (1361) and 36 Ed. III (1362) he receives grants from John de Foxiate of Salop and from Thomas de Bykedon of Wodecot of other lands in the Frankevyle suburb of Salop.<sup>7</sup> He occurs frequently as a witness in Shrewsbury deeds between the years 1353 and 1366.<sup>8</sup> In 40 Ed. III (1366) he was elected member of Parliament for Shrewsbury, to the parliament summoned to meet at Westminster on 4 May 1366,<sup>9</sup> as he had probably been to the parliament sent up in 1354, but the Christian name is unfortunately torn off the record for that year.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mytton MS. at Blymhill Rectory, fos. 96, 97, 114.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Joseph Morris's MS.

<sup>3</sup> Mytton MS. at Blymhill Rectory, fo. 50.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Joseph Morris's MS.; Burke's Dic. of Landed Gentry.

<sup>5</sup> Mytton MS. at Blymhill Rectory, fo. 96.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, fo. 65.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, fo. 101.

<sup>8</sup> Halston MSS. at Weston; Mytton MS. at Blymhill Rectory.

<sup>9</sup> Members of Parliament (printed for the House of Commons in 1878), Part 1, p. 177.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*





Reginald de Mutton served the office of bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1373,<sup>1</sup> and was one of those elected as burgesses of that town to serve in the parliament summoned to meet at Westminster on 21 November of the same year (47 Ed. III),<sup>2</sup> as he was also in 1 Ric. II in the parliament to meet at Westminster 31 October 1377.<sup>3</sup>

In 51 Ed. III (1377) Benedicta, relict of John Typper of Lodelowe, released to Reginald son of *Thomas* de Mutton of Salop her right in all the lands etc. which formerly belonged to John Geffrey her brother in the vill and fields of Neubald, together with a curtilage lying in Frankeville suburb of Salop between the lands formerly of Roger Michel on the one side and the lands formerly of John de Foxiete on the other side.<sup>4</sup>

In 11 Ric. II (1388), calling himself Reginald son of Thomas de Mutton, he gives to the prior and brothers of the order of St. Augustin of Salop all the right and claim that he has behind the walls of the town of Salop on the west side (*ex parte occidentali*), which same land his father Thomas had by the dimission of Roger Collyngs for the whole life of the same Roger, the boundaries of which are fully contained in the original charter, to hold to the same prior and brothers and their successors of the chief lords of the fee by the accustomed services; witnessed by John Geffrey, then one of the bailiffs of the town of Salop, Thomas Skynner, John de Weston, James Oyer, Richard .yrhale, John Rondolf, Walter de Scheynton, John de Mutton and others; dated at Salop on the Tuesday next before the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary, 11 Ric. II, and sealed with a seal bearing apparently an eagle displayed and round it the legend "Barthe de Rob' del Per."<sup>5</sup>

In 14 Ric. II (1391), on the Wednesday before the feast of St. Gregory the Pope, Reginald de Mutton and Robert de Grafton, then bailiffs of the town of Salop, Thomas Skynner, Richard Stury, William de Byryton, Thomas Pryde, William de Weston, and others, occur as witnesses to a Shrewsbury deed.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Burke's Dic. of Landed Gentry.

<sup>2</sup> Members of Parliament (printed for the House of Commons in 1878), Part 1, p. 192.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 198.

<sup>4</sup> Mytton MS. at Blynhill Rectory, fo. 73.

<sup>5</sup> Halston MSS. at Weston. The device on the seal is the old Mytton arms, but it is difficult to understand the legend.

<sup>6</sup> Halston MSS. at Weston.



It was probably in 21 Ric. II (1398) that Reginald de Mutton advanced to the King the sum of money mentioned by Blakeway. He is said to have been six times bailiff of Shrewsbury between the years 1373 and 1400.<sup>1</sup>

Reginald de Mutton married two wives, viz. :—Eleanor, daughter of William le Skynner<sup>2</sup> and sister and heir of Thomas le Skynner of Shrewsbury; and Alice, the daughter and heir of Sir Hamo Vaughan, knight.<sup>3</sup> By his first marriage with Eleanor Skynner he acquired property in Lynches, Fenemere, Salop, Coleham, Newbold, Wittington, Huntington, Woodhouse, Hanewood, and Preston Montford.

Reginald Mutton died in the year 1424, and an inquisition *post mortem* was held at Wenlock before Richard Laken, the King's escheator for Salop and the Marches of Wales, on 4 March 7 Hen. VI (1429), when the jury find that Reginald Mitton of Salop died seised in his demesne as of fee of the manor or grange of Monksmeole with the appurtenances within the liberty of the town of Salop, of two carucates of land with the appurtenances in Marke and within the same liberty, of eight tenements within the vill of Salop, and of ten shillings of annual rent there to be paid at the feasts of Easter and St. Michael . . . . , and that the said manor or grange with the appurtenances is worth 20 marks yearly, and the said two carucates of land are worth six marks yearly, and the said eight tenements are worth £6 payable at the feasts above mentioned in equal portions; that the aforesaid

<sup>1</sup> Mr. J. Morris's MS.

<sup>2</sup> The Skynners were one of the richest families in Shrewsbury, who frequently held the office of bailiff, and represented the borough in parliament. Of this family William le Skynner represented Shrewsbury in parliament in 15 Ed. II (1322), and 6 Ed. III (1332), as also in 10 Ed. III (1336), being then styled William le Skynner *senior*, with William le Skynner *junior* for his colleague. William le Skynner, probably the son, served again as Burgess of parliament in the following parliament of 1336, and in 13 Ed. III, in the short parliaments of October 1339 and that of 1340. Thomas le Skynner, probably his son, was elected member in 45 Ed. III (1371), as also in the following year and in 50 Ed. III (1376).

<sup>3</sup> Alice, daughter and heir of Sir Hamo Vaughan, is usually called the first wife, but Sir Richard de Mutton, the son of Eleanor, was dead in December 1419, leaving a son William Mytton, who was found by inquisition to be the nearest heir to his grandfather Reginald de Mutton (see next page), and Alice Vaughan was party to a suit with her husband Reginald de Mutton in 1416, and, as late wife of Reginald Mutton of Salop, was also party to a suit in 1432 (De Banco Roll, Trin. 10 Hen VI, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVII, p. 141). By her Reginald was father of Thomas Mutton, ancestor of the Halston family, who was of Vaughan's Place, Shrewsbury in 1440, and succeeded to his mother's property.



manor or grange, land, and tenements, are held of the King *in capite*, by what service they know not, and they say that William Mitton is his cousin and nearest heir, namely, the son of Richard son of the aforesaid Reginald, and that he is of the age of 18 years and more, and is in the custody of the Lord King by reason of divers other lands and tenements in the counties of Salop, Stafford, and Warwick, held of the Lord King by knight's service, late the property of Margaret, mother of the said William Mitton, late deceased; that the aforesaid Reginald died 20 December 3 Hen. VI (1424), and that Hugh [Boerley], late of Bromscroft in the said county, received the rents and profits of the said manor or grange, two carucates of land, eight tenements, and 10s. of annual rent, with all their appurtenances, from the time of the death of the said Reginald till the time of taking this inquisition.<sup>1</sup>

By patent of 9 Hen. VI (1430-1) the King, referring to the above inquisition, notifies to his bailiffs etc. that, in addition to the lands and tenements therein specified as being held of him *in capite*, he is informed by William Boerly of Bromscroft and Sir Thomas Straunge, knight, that the aforesaid Reginald, by the name of Reginald Mitton burgess of Salop, was seised, among other lands and tenements, of all that tenement with the appurtenances in Salop called Caynes place, and of that tenement in the parish of St. Julian which formerly belonged to Katherine de Weston, together with that tenement adjacent which he formerly had of the gift and feoffment of Richard de Grafton and Hugh de Acton, which same tenements lie together in the same parish in the corner opposite to the burial ground of the said church of St. Julian, between the tenement late of Cassander de Clyff on the one side and that of Richard Neweton, formerly of Thomas Parys, on the other, and extend from the King's highway leading towards the church of St. Chad to the garden of the aforesaid Cassander, late of Robert Upton, and the capital tenement in which he dwelt called Vaughnaunes Hall with all its appurtenances, and that tenement on the Wilecope within the parish of St. Julian with all its appurtenances, which same tenement formerly belonged to Katherine de Weston and was then situated between the tenement of John Grafton on the one side and a rent by Richard Bonnell on the other, and eight acres and one butte of arable land below (*infra*) Monkey lying together, and ten shillings of annual rent from a certain

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 7 Hen. VI, No. 68. The age of the heir is considerably overstated at this inquisition, for he was not then fourteen.





tenement which Roger Camprich held of the same Reginald in the neighbourhood of Baxster Strete in Salop, together with those vacant places of land lying in various parts, of which one lies in the neighbourhood of Romaldesham between the tenement of John Boget and that of Stephen Barkere, and extends from the King's highway to the land belonging to the heirs of Richard de Mitton, another parcel of land lies in the neighbourhood of Knokynslane, and another parcel of waste land on the Coton Hill near to the land of Richard Stury, all which he had left to Alice, late his wife, to have and to hold to the same Alice for term of life; and the same Reginald afterwards died, and after his death the same Alice entered upon the aforesaid tenements and rent with the appurtenances by virtue of the aforesaid will, and the same Alice being so seised gave and conceded to the aforesaid William Boerley and Thomas Straunge by the name of Thomas Straunge, Esquire, and Hugh Burgh, Esquire, and William Forster, now deceased, all the estate which she had in the aforesaid tenements and rents with their appurtenances by the name of those lands, tenements, rents, reversions, and services, with their appurtenances, which were of the aforesaid Reginald, formerly her husband, in the vill of Salop and within the liberty of the said vill; and the said Hugh, William, Thomas and William, without obtaining the King's licence, entered upon the aforesaid tenements and rent, with the appurtenances, which are taken into the King's hands by reason of the aforesaid transgressions. The King by his special grace, and for the sum of sixteen pounds now paid to him, pardons these transgressions and further concedes for himself and his heirs, as far as in him lies, to the said William and Thomas that they should retain and hold during the life of the said Alice of him and his heirs by the accustomed services for ever, without impediment from him or his heirs, his justices, escheators, sheriffs, or other the bailiffs or ministers of him or his heirs whatsoever. Dated at Westminster 15 February.<sup>1</sup>

The lands last above mentioned were those which came to Reginald by his second wife Alice Vaughan, and which after her death will have passed to her son Thomas Mytton.

By this last wife he had two sons, viz. Thomas, and John Mytton of Shrewsbury. The will of the latter dated in 1454 mentions his wife, Alice, and Thomas Mytton, son of his brother Thomas Mytton.

<sup>1</sup> Pat. Roll, Hen. VI, Part 1, m. 17.





Thomas Mytton, the elder son of the second marriage, was of Vaughan's Hall or Vaughan's Place in Shrewsbury in 1440, but died before 22 June 1443.<sup>1</sup> By his wife Agnes, daughter and heir of William Boerley or Burley of Shrewsbury, by Isabel, daughter and heir of William de Tour of Shrewsbury, by Jane, daughter and heir of John Pride of Shrewsbury, he had a son Thomas Mytton, of Vaughan's Place, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1483, and Bailiff of Shrewsbury eighteen times between 1464 and 1500. He died in 1504, having married two wives. By the first, Elizabeth,<sup>2</sup> fourth and youngest daughter and coheir of Sir John Burgh of Wattlesburgh and Mowddwy, knight, he had a son William Mytton, Esquire, lord of Mowddwy, ancestor of the Myttons of Halston co. Salop, and three daughters. By his second wife, Anne, daughter of Richard Baron Strange of Knockin, and relict of Geoffrey Kyffin, Esquire, he had, with two daughters, two sons, Sir Adam Mytton, knight, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1554, and Alan Mytton, who both left only female issue.

To return to the elder line, Sir Richard Mytton, the eldest son of Reginald, predeceased his father. He doubtless succeeded to his mother's estates at the time of her death and became a knight. We have seen that he married Margaret, daughter of Sir Adam de Peshale and Joyce his wife, by whom he left a son and heir William. Two Shropshire inquisitions were taken after his death, the first on the Tuesday after the feast of St. Gregory the Pope, 8 Hen. V (13 March 1421), and the second on the Tuesday after the Epiphany, 15 Hen. VI (10 Jan. 1437). By the latter it is found that he died seised of one messuage, five shops and six tofts, one croft, one stable, and one grange with the appurtenances in Shrewsbury, and of 8s. 4d. rent issuing out of eleven messuages with the appurtenances in Shrewsbury, and of eleven messuages, one croft, two granges, two carucates of land and pasture, and a certain meadow with the appurtenances in Colnham within the liberty of Shrewsbury aforesaid, also of 40s. rent with the appurtenances issuing out of certain lands and tenements in the hamlet of Woodehous within the parish of Hanwood, and of a third part of the manor of Lynches with the appurtenances in the same county. The jurors find that Richard Mutton died 10 November 6 Hen. V (1418), and William Mutton his son and heir was returned as 12 years of

<sup>1</sup> Mytton MS. at Blymhill Rectory, fo. 25.

<sup>2</sup> *Sic* in copy of marriage settlement, dated 1452, transcribed in Mytton MS. at Blymhill Rectory, fo. 30. In most pedigrees the name is given as Eleanor.



age and more at the date of the first and 24 and more at the date of the second inquisition<sup>1</sup>; but his age was considerably overstated, especially in the earlier inquisition. In a Staffordshire inquisition held on the Saturday next after the Epiphany, 8 Hen. V (4 Jan. 1421), it is found that Margaret who was the wife of Richard Mutton, chivaler, held no lands etc. in the county of Stafford, that she died 5 Aug. last past, and that William Mutton her son and heir was 10 years of age and more.<sup>2</sup>

WILLIAM MYTTON, son of Sir Richard and Margaret his wife, proved his age by inquisition taken at Penkridge 14 February 15 Hen. VI (1436-7),<sup>3</sup> where it was shown by numerous witnesses that he was born at Weston-under-Lusyerd and baptised at the church of St. Andrew there, and was 21 years of age on Innocents' day last past; so that he must have been born on 28 December 1415.

In that same year (1436-7) Nichol Falke de Hereford conceded to William Mytton, Esquire, his kinsman, son of Sir Richard Mytton, knight, and to John Harper, their heirs and assigns, all his part of all the lands and tenements which were formerly of Thomas Skynmer, son of William Skynmer, of the county of Salop, his cousin, in the county and town of Salop.<sup>4</sup>

William Mytton, Esquire, occurs as patron of the church of Weston in 1440 and 1455.<sup>5</sup>

In 1440 William Mitton, Esquire, lord of Bobynton, gives and concedes to Thomas Dykens, his bailiff of Bobinton, and his heirs at a yearly rent six parcels of land lying within the fee of Bobinton, which were lately held by John son of Richard Hulhouse and his heirs: dated at Bobynton on the Tuesday in the feast of Easter, 18 Hen. VI<sup>6</sup> (29 March 1440). He served the office of Sheriff of Staffordshire in the years 1443 and 1458,<sup>7</sup> and was returned as member for the county of Stafford 20 January 1446-7.<sup>8</sup> On 13 December 1463, as William Mytton of Weston-under-Lezeyard in the county of Stafford, Esquire, he gives to

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 8 Hen. V, No. 3, and Inq. 15 Hen. VI, No. 29.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. 8 Hen. V, No. 8.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 15 Hen. VI, No. 69.

<sup>4</sup> Halston MS., *penes* Earl of Bradford, *inter* Boycott MSS.

<sup>5</sup> Lichf. Dioc. Register, Vol. IX, fo. 68; Vol. XI, fo. 12.

<sup>6</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 24; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 89 (from original at Weston).

<sup>7</sup> Shaw's Staffordshire, Vol. I, p. xxxv.

<sup>8</sup> Return of Members of Parliament (printed by order of the House of Commons in 1878), Part I, p. 336.



John Mytton, his eldest son, and Anne his wife, daughter and coheir of Thomas Swinerton, of Hilton, in the county of Stafford, Esquire, and the heirs of the body of the said John, a pasture or meadow called Le Fletez and other lands within the lordship of Ruggeley in the county of Stafford; dated at Ruggeley on the feast of St. Lucy the Virgin, 3 Ed. IV.<sup>1</sup> He was party to a deed of recognisance under *stat. mere.* in the Exchequer of Salop in 5 Ed. IV<sup>2</sup> (1465-6); and in that reign he occurs on the subsidy roll of the hundred of Ford in the county of Salop.<sup>3</sup> On 4 March 2 Ric. III (1485) he had a lease of Lizard Grange from the Abbot of Lilleshall<sup>4</sup>; and the last we hear of him is in 1489, when he gave to Richard his son his lands in Shrewsbury.<sup>5</sup> This William Mytton came into a great estate in the counties of Stafford, Salop, and Warwick, but made away with much of it. He married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Corbet of Legh in the county of Salop, by whom he had issue John and Richard, and four daughters, Anne wife of Richard Mynors, Jane wife of John Knight of Shrewsbury, Joane wife of John Washborne, and Eleanor wife of Sir Thomas Corbet, knight. Richard Mytton, the younger son, had the lands in Shrewsbury settled upon him by his father, and was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1503. He witnessed a deed of Thomas Jobber of Blynhill, as Richard Mitton of Weston gentleman, in 1485.<sup>6</sup> By deed of settlement in 2 Hen. VIII (1510) Richard Mytton, Esquire, son of William Mytton late of Weston, Esquire, enfeoffed Thomas Swynerton of Hilton, John Gyfford of Chillington, etc., of all his estate in Newbald, Wythynton, Hunkynton, Wodhouse, Hanwod, Preston juxta Monford Bruche, etc., in co. Salop. By another deed of 13 Hen. VIII (1521) the above mentioned feoffees release the same estate to John Mytton of Weston subtus Lizard, Esquire.<sup>7</sup> Richard Mytton married a daughter of Jenkin Pigot Nën, of North Wales, by whom he had issue Jenkyn Mytton, who married Elizabeth daughter of Sir Thomas Poole, knight; and their descendant Sir Peter Mutton, knight, Chief Justice of North Wales, was of Lleweny co. Denbigh 25 March 1621, and purchased Llannersh in the

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 24; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 91b. (from original at Weston).

<sup>2</sup> *Ex inf.* Mr. Joseph Morris of Shrewsbury.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> MS. *penes* Duke of Sutherland, *ex inf.* the late Rev. R. Eytton.

<sup>5</sup> Glover's "Vis. of Stafford" (Harl. MS. 6128, fo. 31b.).

<sup>6</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 92b. (from original at Weston).

<sup>7</sup> Mr. J. Morris, from "Records of the Exchequer," Shrewsbury.







same county. This Sir Peter was returned as member of parliament for the borough of Carnarvon 21 January 1623-4, and died 4 November 1637, leaving his daughters, Anne, married 29 July 1631 to Robert Davies of Gwysaney co. Flint, Esquire, and Ellen, married to Kenrick Eyton of Eyton co. Denbigh, Esquire, his coheirs.

JOHN MYTTON, Esquire, the son and heir of William, was Sheriff of Staffordshire in 11 Hen. VII (1495-6). He married for his first wife Anne, daughter and coheir of Thomas Swymerton of Hylton or Hilton co. Stafford, Esquire, hereditary Seneschal of the Forest of Cammock, whose estates he held for term of life by the courtesy of England. In 8 Ed. IV, as John Mitton of Hylton co. Stafford, *armiger*, Seneschal of the King's Forest of Cammock, he had a general pardon, dated 27 January 8 Ed. IV<sup>1</sup> (1469), for all offences committed before the preceding 15 April. They were married about the year 1463, when his father settled upon them certain lands in the lordship of Rugeley. He had by her two sons, William and John, of whom the elder was living in 1470, but probably died soon after.<sup>2</sup> She had previously been married to Humphrey Swymerton of Swymerton, Esquire,<sup>3</sup> by whom she had issue Humphrey Swymerton, who succeeded to her inheritance. Anne, the wife of John Mytton, died on the Tuesday next after the feast of the Annunciation, 10 Ed. IV (27 March 1470). The inquisition taken after her death was held at Wolverhampton on 24 September 1470. She held in her service as of fee the office of Bailiff or Seneschal of the Forest of Cammock with the appurtenances, one messuage, ten acres of land, and two acres of meadow with the appurtenances in Frodley, and certain lands in Hopwas, of the King *in capite* by grand serjeanty. She held also lands in Wigginton, called Swymerton's land, of Sir Edward Nevill, knight; the manor of Hilton with the appurtenances of John Seymore,

<sup>1</sup> Pardon Roll, 8-9 Ed. IV. He became Seneschal or Chief Forester of the Forest of Cammock *jure uxoris*. See "An Account of the Family of Swymerton" ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. VII, Part 2, p. 112).

<sup>2</sup> William Mytton is mentioned as her eldest son by John Mytton in the inquisition taken after her death on 24 September 1470. The name of one son only would have been mentioned as being sufficient to entitle her husband to enjoy a life interest in her estates. The other son John must have been born shortly before her decease, for he was described as being thirty years of age and more on 10 May 1500.

<sup>3</sup> Humphrey Swymerton, Esq., was returned as knight of the shire for the county of Stafford in 33 Hen. VI (1455). See *Appendix* to Part I of "Return of Members of Parliament," p. xxiii.



clerk, prebendary of the prebend of Hilton; 30 acres of land and six acres of meadow with the appurtenances in Wyrley of the heir of Sir William Peyto, knight, by fealty and doing service at his court once a year; three messuages and 20 acres of meadow with the appurtenances in Lichfield of the bishop of Chester; two messuages with the appurtenances in Penkridge of Humphrey Stafford, Esquire; the manor of Esyngton with the appurtenances of John lord of Dudley by the service of half a knight's fee; one messuage, 200 acres of land, 15 acres of meadow, and 20 acres of wood with the appurtenances in Saredon, called Blakelyes, of Sir Robert Harcourt, knight; 40 acres of pasture and 60 acres of wood with the appurtenances in Wyrley, called Amor, of the heir of Sir William Peyto, knight; 30 acres of land and one acre of meadow with the appurtenances in Codsale of William Dudley, dean of Wolverhampton; and Humphrey Swynerton her son is her next heir and aged seventeen and more.<sup>1</sup>

After the death of Anne, his wife, John Mytton married secondly Joan, daughter of Richard Middlemore of Edgbaston in the county of Warwick, Esquire, and had by her a son Griffith Mytton, living in 1500, and two daughters, Margaret, and Joan wife of John Beaumont. Joan, wife of John Mytton, died 26 July 1475, and was buried at Weston; after which John Mytton appears to have married a third wife, also called Joan, who survived him. They were married before 8 Aug. 11 Hen. VII (1496), when a settlement was made of the manor of Bobinton upon John Mitton and Joan his wife and John Middlemore and their heirs and assigns.<sup>2</sup> The trustees were Richard Middlemore, Esq., Richard Hogges and Richard Marten. It is curious to find a Middlemore associated with this settlement. If it had not been for the concurrent testimony as to the date (1475) of Joan (Middlemore's) death, one would naturally have inferred that she was the wife Joan mentioned in this settlement. John Mytton died 6 or 7 February<sup>3</sup> 1499-1500, and was buried at Weston.

In the chancel of the church of St. Andrew at Weston was formerly a stone with figures in brass of a man in armour lying between two wives, and bearing the following inscription:—"Here

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 9 and 10 Ed. IV, No. 57.

<sup>2</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fos. 94b., 95 (from original at Weston).

<sup>3</sup> He died 6 February according to the inquisition; 7 February was the date given on the gravestone.



lyeth the body of John Mytton, esquier, Agnes<sup>1</sup> and Johane his wyfes: the which John dyed the vij<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the yeare of our Lord a thousand four hundred nynety and nyne: and the aforesaid Johane deceased the xxvj<sup>th</sup> day of July, the yeare of our Lord God MCCCCLXXV, on whose soules Jhesu have mercy. Amen."<sup>2</sup> Below were the figures of five children, two sons and three daughters. Probably the eldest son William, who died young, is not given, and there was, we may suppose, a third daughter, whose name has not been recorded. At the head of the stone on plates of brass were two shields of arms, bearing respectively *an eagle displayed within a bordure engrailed* (for Mytton), and *argent, a cross fleury, on a canton sable a lion's head erased crowned* (for Peshale); at the foot were two more shields, bearing respectively, *a cross fleury* (for Swynnerton), and *quarterly, 1 and 4, per chevron argent and sable, in chief two martlets (or moorcocks), 2 and 3, per pale indented argent and sable* (for Middlemore quartering Edgbaston).<sup>3</sup>

The inquisition *post mortem* of John Mytton, taken at Brewood 10 May 1500, states that a certain Anne, daughter and one of the heirs of Thomas Swynnerton, was seised in demesne as of fee of the manors of Hilton and Esyngton, and of certain messuages, lands, and tenements, in Hilton, Esyngton, Frodley, Wyggynton, Wyrley, Lichfield, Penkridge, Sardon, and Codsale, in the county of Stafford, and being so seised, she married Humphrey Swynnerton, and had issue by him a son Humphrey, now living, and the aforesaid Humphrey, the father, died, and the said Anne was married to John Mitton, and had issue a son John, and the said Anne died, after whose decease the aforesaid John named in the aforesaid writ held the aforesaid manors and lands by the law of England; also that the said John Mitton was seised, in his demesne as of fee, in the same county, of *four parts of the manor of Weston Hues*,

<sup>1</sup> The names Agnes and Anne are often used interchangeably.

<sup>2</sup> Dugdale's "Visitation of Staffordshire," 1663, Church Notes, p. 30, taken 22 September, 1663. See also Ashmole's "Collections for Staffordshire," No. 853, Vol. I, collected chiefly in 1658 and 1663, and now in the Ashmolean Library, and Harl. MS. 2129, fo. 171 (195 new notation). In the latter the death of Johane is given as "a thousand cccclxv," but this must be an error, for Anne the first wife only died in 1470.

<sup>3</sup> Ashmole's "Collections for Staffordshire," No. 853, Vol. I. This monument was probably erected during his own lifetime, after the death of his second wife, Joan Middlemore, and before his third marriage. Cf. Harl. MS. 2129, fo. 171 (195 new notation) and Dugdale's "Visitation of Staffordshire," 1663, Church Notes, p. 30.





in five parts divided, and of five messuages, 200 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, and 40 acres of wood with the appurtenances in Weston Hues, of the manor of Bobynton, and four messuages, 100 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 60 acres of pasture with the appurtenances in Bobynton in the same county, and of the manor of Tomenhorne, one messuage, 60 acres of land with the appurtenances in Tomenhorne in the same county, and of 6 messuages and 4 water-mills, 100 acres of pasture, 10 acres of meadow with the appurtenances in Hagley and Rugeley in the same county, and of one water-mill and 20s. of annual rent with the appurtenances in Norton in the same county, and of the manor of Horton, with 2 messuages, 20 acres of meadow, 40 acres of pasture with the appurtenances in Horton in the same county; and being so seised the said John during his lifetime granted to George Earl of Shrewsbury, Thomas his brother, Richard Salter, doctor of laws, and George . . . the premises, to hold to them and their heirs, for the performance of the will and disposition of the said John Mitton, by virtue of which feoffment the said Earl, Thomas, Richard and George were and are still seised in their demesne as of fee. The annual value of the said four parts of the manor of Weston and of the messuage and lands in Weston aforesaid is 10 marks, and they are held of Thomas, Earl of Arundel, by what service [the jurors are ignorant]; and the annual value of the said manor of Bobynton and the messuages and lands in Bobynton is 20 marks, and they are held of . . . by knight's service; and the annual value of the aforesaid manor of Tomenhorne and the messuage and lands in Tomenhorne is £6, and they are held of the Bishop of Chester, but by what service the jurors are ignorant; and the annual value of the said messuage, water-mills, and lands in Hagley and Rugeley is £10, and they are held of the said Bishop by the service of keeping Rugeley baillie in the King's Forest of Cannock; and the annual value of the said rent and water-mills in Norton is 40s., and they are held of the Lord Ferrers, of Chartley, by what service the jurors are ignorant. The aforesaid John held no other manors, lands, or tenements in demesne as of fee of the King *in capite* or of any one else in the said county on the day of his death. The said John Mitton died on the Thursday next after the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary last past (6 February 1499-1500). John Mitton is his son and heir, and is of the age of 30 years and more.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 15 Hen. VII, No. 104.





By his will, dated at Weston on 21 December 1499, he directs his body to be buried in the chancel of St. Andrew of Weston, gives sundry sums to the churches of St. Andrew of Weston, our Lady of Coventry, St. Chad of Lichfield, and the church of Boblynton, wills that his wife shall have the manor of Weston with the appurtenances without impeachment of waste for six years, to find a priest to sing for his soul in this same church of St. Andrew for seven years; gives to his son Griffith five marks of land during his life, also ten marks in money, six kine, two gowns, and two dublets; gives to William Chatturton 13s. 4*d.* of land in such place as is assigned; desires that his servant John Broke may continue to gather the rents of Bobinton for his wife and his heirs, for which he shall receive 20*d.* during his life, and this he shall have whether they wish him to gather the rents or not; gives to his servant Thomas Steventon 6s. 8*d.* in fee during the term of seven years; also to William Fowke of Brewood a gown of black penke furred with martennes; gives 2s. 6*d.* to the forming of the church of Tonge; wills that his cousin Joyce Jake shall have the farm of Touchorne (*sic*) [Tomenhorne] during her life for such money as a part of certain indentures specifieth; and the residue of his goods he gives to his wife Jane, whom he makes his executrix together with Maister Doctor Salter. He names his good Lord of Shrewsbury overseer of his will, which is witnessed by Sir William Smyth, priest of the College of Tonge, Sir Thomas Goodeale, parson of Weston, and Sir John Parton, his priest.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 96 (from original at Weston); Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 24b. This will was proved before Philip Agard, doctor of decrees, commissary and sequestrator general, 12 February 1499-1500. The monumental genealogy in Weston Church, which was doubtless compiled by Dame Elizabeth Wilbraham the pious restorer of the church in or about the year 1700, is here in error. The inscription states that "John, son and heir of William Mytton, of Weston, Esq., who married Anne, the heiress of Thomas Swinnerton, of Hilton, Esq., and had by her one son John, who married Jane, the daughter of Richard Middlemore, of Edgbaston, in the county of Warwick, Esq., died about the year mcccexiii"; and again on the next tablet: "John, son and heir of John Mytton, of Weston, Esq., who married Eustance, daughter of Sr Rich. Beaumont, of Weddesbury, in the county of Stafford, knight, and had by her one daughter, Joyce, departed this life Feb. xvi A.D. MDLII." These statements, which were probably taken from the pedigree drawn up by William Segar, Garter, in 1632, give a generation too many. The monuments originally in the church, with the shields of arms they bore, show that it was the first John Mytton, the son of William, who made his will in December 1499 and died in the following February, that married Joan Middlemore for his *second* wife. Shaw in his "History of Staffordshire," and Dukes in his "History of Shropshire," are wrong in stating that the



JOHN MYTTON, of Weston, son and heir of John Mytton, Esq., deceased (?), by deed dated on 26 September 13 Hen. VII (1497), confirmed a demise made by his father to Thomas Widdowis and his assigns of a certain tenement with a croft pertaining thereto in Blymhill, together with all pastures, etc., for a term of 100 years save one from 5 March 13 Hen. VII.

This deed is so given in the Harleian and Additional MSS., but there must be some error here either in the date of the deed or in the reading of the word "deceased" [*defunct*], for it has been shown that John Mytton, the father, was still living at that time.<sup>1</sup> It is however probable that John Mytton, the son and heir-apparent, was in possession of the lands at Blymhill before the death of his father. He succeeded to the whole of his estates on 7 February 1499-1500, and a few days later, namely on the Thursday before the feast of St. Cedde (Chad), 15 Hen. VII (27 February 1500), he witnesses, as John Mitton Esquire, a grant by Richard Northall to William Turnur and Richard Turnur of all his lands in Weston.<sup>2</sup>

In September 1506 he presented to the church of Weston,<sup>3</sup> and in the following year, 23 Hen. VII, he was Sheriff of the county of Stafford, as also in 4 Hen. VIII (1512-3).<sup>4</sup> Leland, in his notes of Staffordshire families in the time of Henry VIII, mentions "Mitton of Weston in Staffordshire" as a "man of 100 marke land; his grand-father sold 100 marke land; there is a parke of his at Weston."<sup>5</sup>

In a list of standards borne in the field in the reign of Henry VIII, in a MS. in the College of Arms,<sup>6</sup> the following is given for John Mitton of Weston-under-Lyzearde in the county of Stafford: *A. on a wreath, argent and gules, a bull's head sable, horns, ears, inquisition taken after the death of the first John Mytton was taken on 10 May 5 Hen. VII. There is no such inquisition extant. It was taken on 10 May 15 Hen. VII, as has been shown above, and it was his son who married Eustance or Constance Beaumont. The date of the death of this second John Mytton is also given incorrectly in the present monumental tablet as being on 16 February 1552, whereas it was on 16 February 1532, as recorded in the original monument and given in the inquisition post mortem.*

<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 25b., and Add. MS. 18667, fo. 98b. (from original at Weston). Probably the mistake is in the date of the deed caused by a confusion with the date of the lease which it confirms, for the term of the lease commenced in March 13 Hen. VII.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 25; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 95b. (from original at Weston).

<sup>3</sup> Lichf. Dioc. Register, Vol. XIII, fo. 19.

<sup>4</sup> Shaw's Staffordshire, Vol. I, p. xxxvi.

<sup>5</sup> "Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica," Vol. III, p. 342.

<sup>6</sup> "Excerpta Historica," Bentley, p. 314.



*and tongue or, charged on the neck with three annulets of the last (remainder imperfect).<sup>1</sup> Motto, "Spes mea in domino est." Arms, quarterly, 1 and 4, per pale azure and gules, an eagle displayed with two heads or, beaked and membered argent; 2 and 3, argent, a cross flory sable, on a canton gules, a lion's head erased of the field, dually crowned or.*

By deed, dated at Weston hues on 8 June 5 Hen. VIII (1513), wherein he styles himself John Mitton Esquire, son and heir of John Mitton Esquire, he gives to John Beaumont, Roger Jemins, rector of the church of Weston hues, John Broke and John Chewe, his manors of Weston hues, Bobynton, Thomenhome, Haggeley and Horton, and all other his lands etc. in the counties of Stafford and Salop, to have and to hold, etc.<sup>2</sup> And by deed, dated at Weston on 10 June 19 Hen. VIII (1527), he gives his manor of Bobynton to John Giffard, knight, Walter Wrottesley, Esquire, John Beaumont, and Roger flowk, gentlemen, to the use of the said John Mitton and Constance his wife and the survivor of them, with remainder to the right heirs of the aforesaid John Mitton.<sup>3</sup>

He married Constance, daughter of Sir Henry Beaumont of Wednesbury co. Stafford, knight, who survived him, and had issue a son William Mitton who in or about 1521 married Mary, daughter of William Chetwynd, Esquire, but died without issue in the lifetime of his father, and a daughter Joyce, who in February 1505-6 was already married to John Harpesfield, of London, gentleman,<sup>4</sup> and had a son living and under age in 1530.<sup>5</sup>

John Mytton died 16 February 1532-3, and was buried at Weston, where there was formerly a monument to his memory in the chancel, with this inscription on a plate of brass fixed in a marble gravestone: "Of your charitie pray for the sowles of John Mytton, Esquire, and Constance his wife, which John deceased the 16th day of February Anō Dnī 1532<sup>o</sup> . . . on whose sowles Jhū have mercy. Amen."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This crest on the standard of John Mytton is substantially the same as that mentioned in Dugdale's Church Notes, taken on his Visitation in 1663, as the crest on Sir Adam de Peshale's monument, viz. a bull's head with roundles on it. It would seem therefore that John Mytton adopted the crest, as well as quartering the arms, of Peshale.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 25; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 98 (from original at Weston).

<sup>3</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 25b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 99b. (from original at Weston).

<sup>4</sup> Final Concords, Staffordshire, 21 Hen. VII, No. 19 ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, p. 255).

<sup>5</sup> See *post*, p. 128.

<sup>6</sup> "Ashmole's Collections." *cf.* Harl. MS. 2129, fo. 171 (195 new notation).







By inquisition, taken at Wolverhampton before Walter Wrottesley, Esquire, the King's escheator for the county of Stafford, 27 October 25 Hen. VIII (1533), it was found that John Mytton Esq. died seised of the manor of Weston-under-Luzeord and the advowson of the parish church of Weston in his demesne as of fee tail; also of the manors of Bobynton and Tamehorn, 5 marks of chief or annual rent in Whytyngton, 200 acres of land, 200 acres of pasture, 100 acres of meadow and wood in Newton, Blyffeld, and le Boolde, 2 messuages, 100 acres of land, 100 acres of pasture in Horton, 1 messuage or manor of Hagley in Hagley near Rugeley, 1 cottage in Penkeryche, all in the county of Stafford, in his demesne as of fee tail; and being so seised he long before his death enfeoffed Walter Wrottesley, Esquire, and others in fee to certain uses expressed in certain marriage indentures made between him, John Mytton, and Thomas Skryusher; of which the date is [12 June 22 Hen. VIII (1530)]<sup>1</sup>; and further the said John Mytton was seised of 100 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 46s. 8d. rent in Ryggeley, Whytyngton, Tymnor, and Fysherwyke, in the county of Stafford, in his demesne as of fee tail, and being so seised he before Thomas Frowyke, knight, and his fellow Justices of the King's Bench at Westminster, in the 21st year of the reign of the present King (Henry VIII)<sup>2</sup> levied a fine of the aforesaid tenements to John Harpesfeld and Joyce his wife, daughter of the said John Mytton, by which fine the premises were settled on John Harpesfeld and Joyce for their lives and the life of the survivor of them, by virtue of which they were seised thereof in their demesne as of a free tenement. The jurors say further that the manor of Weston is held of the Earl of Arundel, by what service they know not, and is of the annual value of 20 marks; that the manor of Bobynton is held of the Earl of Stafford, by what service they know not, and is of the annual value of £20; that the manor of Tamehorn, the 5 marks rent, and lands, etc., in Whytyngton, Newton, Blyffeld and le Bold are held of the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, by what service the jurors know not; that Tamehorn is of the annual value of 20 marks, and the other lands etc. £10; that the 2 messuages and other lands etc. in Horton

<sup>1</sup> This date is left in blank in the return.

<sup>2</sup> This is a mistake. The date of the fine should be 21 Hen. VII (1505-6). See "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, p. 255. Thomas Frowyke was appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas on 30 Sept. 1502, and died 17 Oct. 1506.



are of the annual value of £4, and are held of the Bishop of Coventry and Lychfield, by what service they know not; that the messuage of Hagley and cottages in Penkeryche are of the annual value of £6 6s. 8d.; that Hagley is held of the Bishop, and the cottages of George Moneux, by what services they know not; that the 100 acres of meadow etc. in Ryggeley, Whyttington, Tynnor and Fysherwyke are held of the Bishop in socage by the annual service of a red rose, and are of the annual value in all their issues of £10. They say further that the said John Mytton was seised of no other lands etc. in the county of Stafford, that he died 17 February 24 Hen. VIII (1532-3), and that Joyce Harpesfield, widow, is his daughter and heir and of full age.<sup>1</sup>

JOYCE HARPEFIELD, the daughter and heir of John Mytton, had by her husband John Harpesfield, who was living 12 June 1530 but dead before 27 October 1533, an elder son, Edward Harpesfield, who afterwards took the name of Mytton, and upon whom his grandfather settled the reversion of all his lands in the counties of Stafford and Salop (with the exception of land in co. Salop to the yearly value of 5 marks, which he reserved to himself the right of disposing of as he pleased), in prospect of a marriage to be had between the said Edward Harpesfield and Ann, the daughter of Thomas Skrymsler of Norbury. The uses of this settlement are declared by an indenture between John Mitton and Thomas Skrymsler, bearing date 12 June 22 Hen. VIII (1530), by which it is covenanted that the said Edward shall marry the said Ann before the feast of St. Michael next coming; and that in the event of either of them dying before the consummation of the marriage, the next brother or sister (as the case may be) shall take his or her place. A jointure of 20 marks *per annum* is to be provided for Ann Skrymsler by the assignment of lands of the annual value of 5 marks immediately, and of £10 after the death of John Mytton, to the use of Edward and Ann and the heirs of their two bodies. The rest of the lands are to be settled upon Edward and the heirs of his body by Ann after the death of John Mytton and Constance his wife. It is however agreed that "the cheeffe mancion place & hall of Weston w<sup>t</sup> the orchards crofts cowlesowe horslesowe the nether cowhey the medowes w<sup>t</sup> all the arrabull londs lying & beyng w<sup>in</sup> the towne & fields off Weston" shall upon the death of John Mytton be delivered to Edward

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 25 Hen. VIII, Esch. File 1039, No. 2. cf. Chan. Inq. 25 Hen. VIII, Vol. 55, No. 73.



Harpesfield, if then of age, or to Thomas Skrymsher for his use during his minority. John Mytton reserves power to grant to his daughter Joyce an annuity of £10 for her life out of any of his lands, so that it be no parcel of the lands appointed for jointure nor of the manor of Weston nor of lands there. The marriage portion paid by Thomas Skrymsher to John Mytton was 8 score marks.<sup>1</sup>

To this deed is appended a small piece of parchment with a memorandum to the effect that the lands assigned for jointure are, for the jointure of 5 marks in possession all the lands etc. in Whityngton, and for the jointure of £10 in reversion all the lands etc. in Newton, Blyfield, the Cold [? field], Admascon, or elsewhere within the fee of Newton, and if such last-mentioned lands be of insufficient value, the feoffees are to suffer the deficiency to be made good out of "the lands of Brynton or Blynhell in the indenture hereunto annexed specified." No lands in Blynhill or Brineton are however specified in the indenture of 12 June 1530, or indeed in the inquisition taken on the death of John Mytton, and it is probable that they had been included in a previous indenture made on the marriage of his son William, who had since died without issue, with Mary Chetwynd, and that it was to that previous indenture that the memorandum was intended to be annexed.

By indenture of 20 November 25 Hen. VIII (1533) John Staunley, Esquire, William Swenerton, Rector of the parish church of Blynhull, and Richard Jenyns, Vicar of Wadesbury, who had been jointly enfeoffed with James Beaumont, since deceased, remitted and quit claimed to Joyce Harpesfeld, daughter and heir of John Mitton, Esquire, lately deceased, and her heirs, the manors, lands, tenements etc. in the counties of Stafford and Salop and elsewhere, etc., which they had of the gift and feoffment of John Mitton to the uses of a certain indenture made between John Mitton and William Chetwyne on the marriage of William Mitton, son and heir of the said John Mitton, and Mary his wife, daughter of the said William Chetweyn, and dated 10 October 13 Hen. VIII (1521).<sup>2</sup>

And on 4 February 25 Hen. VIII (1534), as Joyce Harpeffeld, widow of John Harpeffeld, late of London, gentleman, daughter and heir of John Mitton of Weston Hnghwes in the county of Stafford, Esquire, and in the entail of Adam Peersall, she gives to

<sup>1</sup> Original deed *penes* Earl of Bradford.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 25b.; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 102b. (from original at Weston).





Constance Mitton, her mother, for term of life, all her right, title, etc., in the manor of Weston, and in her other manors, lands and tenements, rents and services, with the appurtenances, in Beitherton (Beighterton), Blymehill, and Brynton, in the county of Stafford, and Bobington in the counties of Stafford and Salop, provided that the said Constance do not let to farm the manor of Weston to anyone but the said Joyce.<sup>1</sup>

From these two deeds it would rather seem that Joyce Harpesfield had a reversionary interest under her brother's marriage settlement in the manor of Weston and the other manors and lands in Beighterton, Blynhill, Brineton, and Bobbington. If so, her interest must have been overlooked by her father on the settlement in 1530.

After this we meet with no more mention of Joyce Harpesfield.

EDWARD HARPEFIELD, *alias* MYTTON, was in possession in April 1544, when in a presentation to Blynhill church, the name of Edward Mytton of Weston under Lyzcard, Esq., occurs as joint patron for that turn with John Lane of Hyde, John Harcourte of Ronton, and James Moreton of Turnehill, Esquires,<sup>2</sup> and in 1549 his name again occurs as sole patron for that turn.<sup>3</sup> He also presented to the church of Weston in 1551, 1559 and 1572.<sup>4</sup>

In 7 Eliz. (1565) Edward Mytton *alias* Harpesfyld and Anne his wife levied a fine of the manors of Weston under Lysyard and Blynnyll and other lands in the counties of Stafford and Salop in favour of Edward Corbett, Esq., Robert Eyton, Esq., and Thomas Burton, gent., and the heirs of Edward Corbett,<sup>5</sup> as trustees doubtless of a settlement then made.

By indenture dated 8 March 12 Eliz. (1570), between Edward Mytton, *alias* Harpesfeld, of Weston-under-Lysyarde in the county of Stafford, Esquire, of the one part, and John Mytton, *alias* Harpesfeld, gentlman, son and heir apparent of the said Edward, of the other part, after reciting that the said Edward held for his life the manor or lordship of Weston-under-Lysyarde, the reversion of which belonged to the said John and his heirs in fee or in fee tail, in consideration of the sum of £146 13s. 4d. paid by the said John to Mary Nowell and Joyce Wescott, two of the daughters of the said Edward, and of the sum of £10 likewise

<sup>1</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 102 (from original at Weston).

<sup>2</sup> Lichf. Dioc. Register.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XIV, fo. 49; and Vol. XV, fos. 15, 65.

<sup>5</sup> *Fines temp. Eliz.*, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVII, p. 213.





paid to the said Edward, the said Edward surrendered to the said John the mansion house or manor place of Weston-under-Lysarde, the park then commonly called Weston park, with all the deer and game in the said park, and all those lands, meadows, leasows, pastures, woods, pools, pounds, waters, fishings, and hereditaments whatsoever, which at any time within the space of three score years last past had been used and occupied with the said mansion-house, and all those lands etc. in Weston then or late in the tenure of Thomas Illesley or of his assigns, and the windmill in Weston, and one pasture called Hetheleyche, and one meadow called Black Poole, in Weston aforesaid, then or late in the tenure of Humfrey Blaknere (the best chamber in the said mansion or manor house called the new chamber, with full liberty of egress and regress to come and go to and from the said chamber at all and every tyme and tymes at the will and pleasure of the said Edward, the two pits or pounds of water, the one called Stafford Pit and the other called the Parsonage Pit, in Weston aforesaid, with full liberty of egress and regress to and from the same, not only to cleanse and scour the same pits or pounds, but also to store with fish and fish the same at the will and pleasure of the said Edward and his assigns, always excepted and reserved to the said Edward), to hold the same to the said John Mytton, his heirs and assigns, in fee or in fee tail, according to his said former estate in the inheritance thereof, yielding and paying to the said Edward for the premises in the tenure of the said Thomas Illesley the yearly rent of £3 3s. after the death of the said Thomas Illesley; and after reciting that the said Edward held for his life two parts of the manor or lordship of Newton with the appurtenances in the said county of Stafford, in five parts to be divided, and divers other lands and tenements in Newton and Blyffeld, the reversion of which belonged to the same John Mytton and his heirs in fee or in fee tail, the said Edward surrendered to the said John the said two parts, and the said lands, to hold the same, etc. (as before); and the said Edward thereby covenanted that if the yearly rents arising therefrom should not amount to the full sum of £10 yearly, then the said Edward upon reasonable request made to him would pay to the said John so much as would make up the said deficiency; in consideration whereof John Mytton covenanted with Edward Mytton that he would as well keep, maintain, and bring up decently at Weston aforesaid Margery Mytton, Elizabeth Mytton, and Katherine Mytton,



three of the daughters of the said Edward, with meat and drink, apparel, lodging, and all other necessaries meet and convenient for their degree until such time as they should severally accomplish the age of twenty-one years or be married, if the said Margery, Elizabeth and Katherine would accept such their said education and finding, as also that he would pay to the said Margery, Elizabeth and Katherine the sum of £120 towards their preferment in marriage, namely £40 to each as soon as she should reach the age of twenty-one years, or on the day of her marriage if she should be married before she reached that age with the consent of the said Edward. John Mytton also covenanted with the said Edward that he would educate, maintain, and find Richard Mytton, Walter Mytton and William Mytton, sons of the said Edward, with convenient and necessary meat, drink, apparel, books, lodging, and all other necessaries meet and convenient for their degree, and would maintain and keep them at school and learning until such time as they should be of such strength, ripeness, and aptness, both for age, skill, and knowledge, that they should be well able to be bestowed in service or apprenticeship, if the said Richard, Walter, and William would accept and take their said findings, education and learning in such convenient place or places as the said John should appoint or assign in the counties of Salop or Stafford, and also that he would upon his own proper costs and charges bestow and prefer the said Richard, Walter, and William unto such sufficient services or apprenticeships as should be meet and convenient for their degree. And he also covenanted that he would pay to one John Droke the sum of £20, which the said Edward had received in ready money from the said John Droke. And John Mytton further covenanted that he would within the space of one year next ensuing make to each of the said Richard Mytton, Walter Mytton, and William Mytton, and to one Thomas Mytton, another son of the said Edward Mytton, a lawful conveyance and assurance of an annuity or yearly rent of five marks, to be charged on the manor of Bobyngton or on other lands of the said Edward or John or either of them in Bobyngton, Newton and Blyffelde, for term of life of the said Richard, Walter, William, and Thomas respectively, the said payments to begin on the first feast of St. Michael or of the Annunciation of our Lady which should happen next after the decease of Edward Mytton. Moreover John Mytton covenanted with Edward Mytton that he would





not only find the said Edward winter meat and summer meat and stable room competent and sufficient for two geldings and two nags in and upon the premises in Weston aforesaid, but also would find him sufficient wood and fuel to maintain and keep a fire in the said new chamber, and would fell the same wood and fuel and carry it to the said mansion house or within three score yards of the same; and further that the said Edward or his assigns might yearly during his life hunt, kill, take and carry away, or cause to be killed, taken, and carried away, one bucke in summer and one doe in winter within the said park called Weston park without let, trouble, vexation, or interruption of the said John Mytton, his heirs or assigns.<sup>1</sup>

Edward Mytton had issue by his wife Ann Skrynsler five sons, John, Thomas, Richard, Walter, and William; and five daughters, Mary, Joyce, Margery, Elizabeth, and Katherine; of whom Mary was married to James Nowell or Noell<sup>2</sup> of Pelshall in the county of Stafford, Joyce was the wife of . . . Wescott, Margery (under age and unmarried in 1570) afterwards became the wife of Thomas Huntbache of Seawall in the county of Stafford and died in 1609, Elizabeth was living unmarried and under age in 1570, and Katherine (then under age) was afterwards married to Roger Marshall.<sup>3</sup> Thomas Mytton, the second son, was apprenticed to the Mercers' Company at Shrewsbury 1 September 1566, admitted freeman thereof 27 April 1577, admitted burgess of Shrewsbury 24 September 1577, was of Salop, gentleman, in 1598, and was buried at St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, 16 October 1610; he married Ann, daughter of Richard Powell, and had a son and heir Edward Mytton, who was admitted freeman of the Mercers' Company, Salop, 9 October 1607, and was living 8 January 1622, and a younger son or sons also living 8 January 1622.<sup>4</sup> Richard Mytton, the third son of Edward Mytton of Weston, was living in 1596; and William Mytton, the fifth son, was admitted freeman of the Mercers' Company, Salop, 5 October 1586, having been apprenticed to his brother Thomas Mytton.

Edward Mytton of Weston was probably still living on

<sup>1</sup> Original deed *penes* Earl of Bradford.

<sup>2</sup> He was the son of Thomas Noell of Pelshall, and nephew of Robert Noell of Hilcote and Newbold co. Stafford.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Joseph Morris's "Shropshire Pedigrees." Mr. Morris gives another daughter, Joan, wife of Robert Foster of Barton co. Stafford, but we have not met with any corroboration of this.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Joseph Morris's "Shropshire Pedigrees."





17 January 25 Eliz. (1583), when Thomas Huntbache of Showell co. Stafford, and John Mitton of Weston co. Stafford, gentleman, purchase from Edward Lord Stafford the lordship and manor of Blymynghill, *alias* Blymhill, and all the messuages, lands, etc., in Blymhill, Brockhurst, and Brynton, or elsewhere, in the county of Stafford, belonging to the said lordship, or ever taken to be of the inheritance of the said Edward Lord Stafford, or of his father and mother, Henry late Lord Stafford and the Lady Ursula his wife, deceased, or of Edward late Duke of Buckingham, his grandfather; the right of patronage to the church of Blymhill aforesaid, and all his rights in a water-mill in Blymynghill, *alias* Blymhill, aforesaid, always excepted and reserved to the said Lord Stafford his heirs and assigns.<sup>1</sup> This purchase was secured by fine dated on the morrow of the Purification, 25 Eliz. (1583); and on 1 April 1583 Thomas Huntbache makes over to John Mitton and his heirs all his right to the above manor etc. purchased from Lord Stafford.<sup>2</sup>

JOHN MYTTON, now termed of Weston Esquire, purchased on 6 January 33 Eliz. (1591) from Walter Giffard of High Om, Esq., his manor, messuage, or ferme in Blymhill, wherein one William Rutter then dwelt, and all his lands etc. in Brynton and Blymhill, together with the advowson of the church of Blymhill.<sup>3</sup>

It appears from the escheators' accounts that John Mytton, Esq., was the Queen's escheator for the county of Stafford from 6 Feb. 39 Eliz. (1597) to 6 Feb. 40 Eliz. (1598).

John Mytton was twice married; first to Eleanor, daughter of Edward Brett of Keele and Dimsdale co. Stafford, Esq., by whom he had a son and heir Edward, who succeeded him, and apparently another son Ralph, who was living in January 1622<sup>4</sup> and August 1630;<sup>5</sup> but was for some reason left out in the entail of his father's

<sup>1</sup> Original deed *penes* Earl of Bradford.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* This purchase from Lord Stafford referred to that fourth part of the manor of Blymhill which had formerly belonged to the Pichfords, but the share of the advowson reserved by Lord Stafford was an imaginary one, for the Pichford share of the advowson had been in possession of the Myttons and their predecessors before the share of the manor came to the Stafford family. The mill reserved was possibly that now known as Wyndford Mill, which however is in the township of Brineton.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* This portion of the manor and lands of Blymhill and Brineton had lately been purchased by Walter Giffard from Robert Harcourt of Ranton, and was then described as containing one messuage, 100 acres of land, 12 acres of meadow, and 16 acres of pasture, with the appurtenances, in Blymhill and Brynton; and this would be that third part of a fourth part of the manor and advowson which had passed from the Covens to the Wyverstons, and came from them to the Harcourts of Ranton. <sup>4</sup> *post*, p. 139. <sup>5</sup> Inq. 14 Car. I, Part 1, No. 202.



estates; and secondly to Mary, daughter of John Cotes of Woodcote, Esq., who survived him and was still living in 1629, and by whom he had a son John, and three daughters, Mary wife of Francis Somerford, Constance wife of Thomas Philipps, and Judith wife of . . . Blackmere. John Mytton, the father, died on 20 May 1615. The inquisition, taken at Stafford on 8 April 1621, states that he held in his demesne as of fee the manor of Weston under Lysiard in the county of Stafford, together with a certain parcel of land in Weston called the Hyde<sup>1</sup> containing 40 acres of land, being parcel of the said manor, together with one messuage, 20 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, and 10 acres of pasture in Weston aforesaid and in Beighterton in the said county, and the manor of Tamhorne *alias* Tamynhorne in the aforesaid county, together with one messuage, 20 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, and 10 acres of pasture in Tamhorne *alias* Tamynhorne and Whittington parcel of the same manor, and the manor of Newton in the said county, together with one messuage, 20 acres of land, 6 acres of meadow, and 10 acres of pasture in Newton, Heiwood and Blythfyld in the same county, and the manor of Bobington *alias* Bovington in the said county, together with 10 acres of land and 10 acres of pasture in Bovington in the said county and in the county of Salop, and 17 acres of meadow in Wiggenton in the county of Stafford aforesaid, and 6 acres of meadow in Elford in the same county; and that John Mitton, being so seised of the premises, by deed dated the 21st day of April of the 40th year of the late Queen Elizabeth (1598) covenanted with Simon Weston Esq. (now knight) that he would levy a fine of the manors and other the premises aforesaid in favour of Thomas Burton, Thomas Woodcocke and Richard Cotes, and that such trustees and their heirs should stand seised thereof to the following uses, that is to say, as to the manor of Tamhorne *alias* Tamenhorne and other the premises in Tamenhorne, Wig-

<sup>1</sup> From deeds in the possession of the Earl of Bradford it appears that the Hyde was enclosed by Edward Mytton of Weston, Esq., between the years 1505 and 1520, and that his right was contested by the King as guardian of Lady Margaret Leveson, widow of Sir Richard Leveson and then a lunatic, who claimed it as parcel of the manor of Burlawton in the parish of Sheriff Hales. This enclosure, consisting of about 100 acres of land, is described as near adjoining to a certain pool of water near to the high way called Watling Street and near adjoining to the Lecte or commonfield of Burlawton aforesaid. The dispute resulted in a lawsuit, in which Edward Mytton established his right to the Hyde as parcel of the manor of Weston under Lizard.



genton and Elford, to the use of Edward Mitton, gent., son and heir apparent of John Mitton, and Elizabeth then and still the wife of Edward, for the lives of Edward and Elizabeth and the survivor of them for the jointure of Elizabeth, and after the decease of Edward and Elizabeth to the use of the heirs of the body of Edward, with remainder to the use of John Mitton, son of the aforesaid John Mitton, and the heirs of his body, with remainder to the use of Thomas Mitton of the town of Salep, gent., brother of John Mitton (the father), and the heirs male of his body, with remainder to the use of Richard Mitton, another brother of John Mitton (the father), and the heirs male of his body, with remainder to the use of the right heirs of John Mitton (the father); and as to the rest of the premises, to the use of John Mitton (the father) for life without impeachment of waste, and after his decease to the use of Edward Mitton and the heirs of his body, with the like remainder as before to John Mitton, Thomas Mitton and Richard Mitton, with remainder to the right heirs of John Mitton<sup>1</sup>; and that a fine was duly levied in the Court of Queen's Bench in the Trinity term of 40 Elizabeth (1598) in accordance with the above deed.<sup>2</sup> The inquisition further states that John Mitton was also seised in demesne as of fee of the manor of Bliminghill *alias* Blinhill, and of one messuage, 20 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, and 20 acres of pasture in Blymhill, Brockhurst and Breynton in the county of Stafford, which had been lately purchased from Edward Lord Stafford; and that John Mitton, being so seised, had enfeoffed therein Thomas Woodecke and Richard Cotes and their heirs to the use of Edward Mitton and the heirs of his body, with remainder to the use of John Mitton (the son) and the heirs of his body, with remainder to the use of the said Thomas Mitton and his heirs and assigns for ever; and further that John Mitton was also seised in his demesne as of fee of one messuage and one acre of land in Penckridge in the county of Stafford, and of three messuages, 100 acres of land, 3 acres of meadow, and 20 acres of pasture in Little Onne within the manor of Church Eaton in the county of Stafford, and of 3 acres of meadow called Dudpoole in Wheaton Aston in the county of Stafford, and of three messuages and half of one messuage, 70 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, and 20 acres of

<sup>1</sup> For a note of this fine, see Final Concords *temp.* Eliz., "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVI, p. 180.

<sup>2</sup> The original of this deed is now in the possession of the Earl of Bradford.





pasture in Blimhill and Breynton in the county of Stafford, and of one parcel of meadow called Emecroft in Blymhill aforesaid, and that John Mitton, being so seised as well of the premises last recited as of all and singular the manors, lands, tenements and other premises, by his indenture bearing date 20 April 13 Jac. (1615) agreed with Edward Mitton that he the said John Mitton should stand seised of the aforesaid manor of Weston and all other his manors, lordships, lands, tenements and hereditaments, together with all the rents, reversions and services which he had in the aforesaid county of Stafford or elsewhere within the kingdom of England, to the sole use of Edward Mitton and his heirs for ever, whereby Edward Mitton was seised of all the aforesaid manors and other the premises. The jurors find that John Mitton died on 20 May 13 Jac. (1615), and that Edward Mitton is his son and nearest heir, and was over 40 years of age at the time of his father's death; that the manor of Weston and other the premises in Weston and Beighterton aforesaid were held by John Mitton, but of whom and by what services the jurors are ignorant, and their annual value in all their issues beyond reprisals is £10; that the manor of Tamhorne *alias* Tamynhorne and other the premises in Tamhorne *alias* Tamynhorne and Whittington aforesaid were held of William Lord Pagett as of his manor of Longden in the county of Stafford aforesaid in free and common socage, but by what services they know not, and their annual value in all their issues beyond reprisals is £6 13s. 4d.; that the manor and other the premises in Newton, Heywood and Blythfyeld aforesaid were held by the said John, but of whom and by what services they know not, and their annual value in all their issues beyond reprisals is £4 6s. 8d., and that the aforesaid manor of Bobington *alias* Bovington and other the premises in Bobington aforesaid were held of the King as of his Barony of Stafford in the aforesaid county of Stafford by knight's service, that is to say, by the tenth part of a knight's fee, and their annual value in all issues beyond reprisals is 50s.; that the aforesaid premises in Wiggenton were held of William Comberford, Esquire, as of his manor of Wiggenton in the county of Stafford in free and common socage and by the rent of 5s. for all services, and their annual value in all issues beyond reprisals is 20s.; that the aforesaid premises in Penekrich were held of Sir Fulk Grevill, knight, as of his manor of Penekrich in the county of Stafford aforesaid in free and common socage, and their annual value in all issues beyond reprisals is 12d.; that the aforesaid premises in





Elford were held of the lords of the manor of Elford, but by what services they know not, and their annual value in all issues beyond reprisals is 10s.; that a fourth part of the manor of Blyminghill *alias* Blimhill aforesaid and other the premises in Blymhill, Brockhurst and Breynton aforesaid were held of the King *in capite* by knight's service, that is to say, by the fortieth part of a knight's fee, and their annual value in all issues beyond reprisals is 20s., and that the rest of the aforesaid manor of Blyminghill *alias* Blimhill and other the premises in Blymhill, Brockhurst and Brynton were held of the King as of his Barony of Stafford aforesaid by knight's service, that is to say, by the tenth part of a knight's fee, and their annual value in all issues beyond reprisals is 40s.; that the aforesaid premises in Little Onne aforesaid were held by the said John, but of whom and by what service they know not, and their annual value in all their issues beyond reprisals is 10s.; and that the aforesaid premises in Wheaton Aston aforesaid were held of Walter Brooke, Esquire, as of his manor of Lapley and Aston in the aforesaid county of Stafford, but by what service they know not, and their annual value in all issues beyond reprisals is 12*d.*; that Edward Mitton has received and had since the death of John Mitton, and still has, all the issues and profits of all the aforesaid manors, lands, tenements and premises; and that the said John named in the writ at the time of his death had no other manors, messuages, lands or tenements in the aforesaid county nor elsewhere, to the knowledge of the aforesaid jury, in demesne or in service.<sup>1</sup>

EDWARD MYTTON, Esquire, who thus succeeded as lord of Weston under Lizard, came into possession of Weston on 20 April 1615 by the gift of his father shortly before his death. By an indenture dated 8 January 19 Jac. I (1622) the uses are declared of a recovery which he had suffered the previous Michaelmas term of his manors of Weston and Bobyngton and certain lands in Weston, Bobyngton and Beighterton, which so far as concerns the manor of Weston and the lands in Weston and Beighterton are as follows, viz.: to the use of himself and Elizabeth his wife and the heirs of his body, with remainder to his brother John and the heirs of his body, with remainder to Edward Mitton of Salop, gent., son and heir of Thomas Mitton late of Salop aforesaid deceased, and the heirs male of his body, with remainder to the heirs male of the body of the said Thomas Mitton, gent., deceased,

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 18 Jac. I, Part 1, No. 147.



with remainder to the right heirs of the said Edward Mitton (party thereto); and as regards the manor of Bobington and his lands therein to the use of himself and his wife Elizabeth for their lives and the life of the survivor of them, and after their decease to the use of Matthew Craddock, Richard Weston, John Brett of Dymdale co. Stafford and Edward Brett of Poole in the same county during the life of Ralphe Mitton, brother of the said Edward Mitton party thereto, upon trust for the maintenance of the said Ralph, and after the death of the said Ralphe Mitton then to the use of the said Edward (party thereto) and the heirs of his body, with remainder to the aforesaid John Mitton and the heirs of his body, with successive remainders to Edward, son of Thomas, and the heirs male of his body and the heirs male of the body of Thomas Mitton deceased, as before, with remainder to himself and his heirs.<sup>1</sup> By the same deed the manor of Blynhill and his lands and tenements therein (except the lands, tenements etc. which had been lately purchased by the late John Mitton his father from Lord Stafford) were settled by him in the same manner as the manor of Weston. A power of revocation and appointment of new uses was reserved to Edward Mitton the settlor.<sup>2</sup>

Edward Mytton's first wife Elizabeth, daughter of James Weston of Lichfield, Esq., and sister of Sir Simon Weston, was dead without issue before 30 April 1629, on which day he married Cecily daughter of Sir William Skeffington of Fisherwick, knight and baronet.<sup>3</sup>

By an indenture bearing date 3 June 1629 the settlement of 8 January 1622 was revoked, and a new settlement made in favour of Edward Mitton and Cecily his wife and the heirs of his body, with remainder to the right heirs of the said Edward Mitton. A power of revocation was again reserved to Edward Mitton without prejudice however to the use thereinbefore limited in favour of his wife Cecily.<sup>4</sup> And by a deed dated 16 August 6 Car. I (1630) Edward Mitton settled all his estates to the use of himself and the heirs of his body, with remainder to the use of his brother John Mitton for life, with remainder to his first and other sons successively in tail, with an ultimate remainder to his own right heirs, provided that if the said John Mitton should ever seek to destroy any of the estates thereby created,

<sup>1</sup> Original deed *penes* Earl of Bradford.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 14 Car. I, Part 1, No. 202.

<sup>4</sup> Original deed *penes* Earl of Bradford.



the uses thereby limited in favour of him and his sons should thereupon cease and determine, and the estates should go to the said Edward Mitton and his heirs.<sup>1</sup>

The name of Edward Mytton, Esquire, appears in the list of "Trayned Horse" for the county of Stafford, taken at Stafford 5 June and at Lichfield 2 October 1634, as supplying one "curiasser."<sup>2</sup>

By his second marriage Edward Mytton had an only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, who was born 4 Feb. 1632. He died on 19 Feb. 1638, leaving his daughter little more than six years of age.<sup>3</sup> His widow Cecily was remarried to Sir William Brereton of Hondford co. Chester, knight, the celebrated general of the Parliamentary forces, by whom she had two daughters, namely, Cecily, who married Edward Brabazon fourth Earl of Meath but died 12 July 1704 without issue, and Mary, who was living unmarried in 1661. Dame Cecily Brereton died at Chester 8 Oct. 1649.

By deed dated 2 March 1642-3 one third part of the lands which had belonged to Edward Mitton late of Weston, Esq., and also the wardship and marriage of Elizabeth Mitton, his daughter and heir, together with one annuity or yearly rent of 20 marks towards the bringing up of the said ward, are made over to (her mother) Dame Cecily Brereton, wife of Sir William Brereton of Hanford co. Chester, knight, Sir Richard Skeffington of Hawksyard co. Stafford, knight, Michaell Biddulph of Elmehurst, and Richard Pyott of Streethay co. Stafford, Esquires, by Richard Newdegate of Gray's Inn co. Middlesex, Esq., to whom they had been granted by the consent of His Majesty's Court of Wards and Liveries on the 2nd day of November preceeding by Dame Cecily Brereton and Sir Richard Skeffington, the grantees from the King under grants dated respectively 10 and 11 May 14 Car. 1 (1638).<sup>4</sup>

ELIZABETH MYTTON, the heiress of Weston, was married there on 29 July 1651, in the twentieth year of her age, to Thomas WILBRAHAM, son and then heir apparent of Sir Thomas Wilbraham of Woodhey co. Chester, knight and baronet, by his wife Elizabeth, second daughter and coheir of Sir Roger Wilbraham of Bridgemere

<sup>1</sup> Original deed *penes* Earl of Bradford.

<sup>2</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XV, p. 230.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 14 Car. I, Part 1, No. 202.

<sup>4</sup> Original deed *penes* Earl of Bradford.





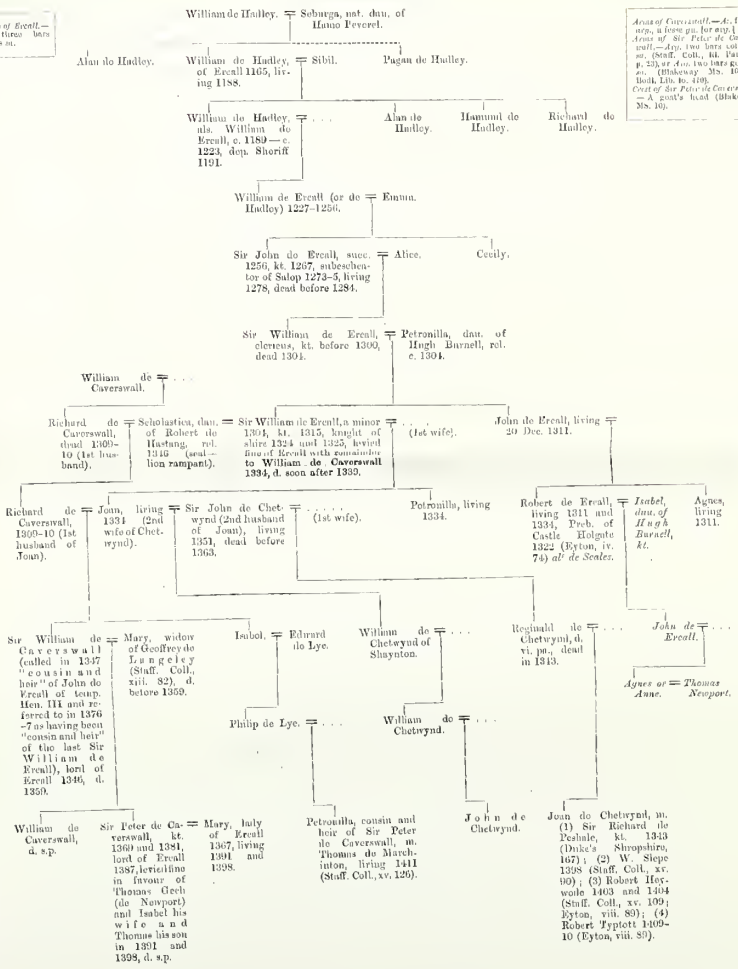




PEDIGREE OF ERCALL AND CAVERSWALL OF ERCALL.

Arms of Erccall.—  
Arg. three bars  
gules on.

Arms of Caverswall.—A. freely  
arg. a fess gu. for arg.  
Arms of Sir Peter de Erccall  
—Arg. two bars gu. with  
a. (Staff. Coll., pt. 2, p. 23, of Ar. two bars gu. &c. (Blakesley Ms. 10, 11  
Book, Lib. no. 109).  
Coat of Sir Peter de Caverswall.  
—A goat's head (Blakesley  
Ms. 10).



William de Caverswall.

Richard de Caverswall, died 1300-10 (1st husband).

Richard de Caverswall, 1300-10 (1st husband of Joan).

Sir William de Caverswall (called in 1347) cousin and heir of John de Erccall of temp. Hen. III and referred to in 1376-7 as having been "cousin and heir" of the last Sir William de Erccall, lord of Erccall 1346, d. 1350.

William de Caverswall, d. s.p.

Sir Peter de Caverswall, kt. 1360 and 1381, lord of Erccall 1387, legitimated in favour of Thomas Greib (de Newport) and Isabel his wife and Thomas his son in 1391 and 1399, d. s.p.

Isobel.

Philip de Lye.

Edward de Lye.

Petronilla, cousin and heir of Sir Peter de Caverswall, m. Thomas de Marchington, living 1411 (Staff. Coll., xv. 126).

William de Chetwynd of Shaynton.

William de Chetwynd.

Reginald de Chetwynd, d. vi. pa., dead in 1313.

John de Chetwynd.

Robert de Erccall, living 1311 and 1334, Treb. of Castle Holgate 1322 (Eyton, iv. 74) ab' de Seales.

Joan de Chetwynd, m. (1) Sir Richard de Peahale, kt. 1313 (Duke's Shropshire, 167); (2) W. Slepe 1398 (Staff. Coll., xv. 90); (3) Robert Howle 1403 and 1404 (Staff. Coll., xv. 109; Eyton, viii. 80); (4) Robert Pypott 1409-10 (Eyton, viii. 80).

Isabel, dau. of Hugh Burnell, kt.

John de Erccall.

Agnes or Anne, Newport.

Agnes, living 1311.

John de Erccall, living 29 Dec. 1311.

Sir John de Erccall, succ. 1256, kt. 1267, subsheriff of Salop 1273-5, living 1278, dead before 1284.

Sir William de Erccall, kt. before 1300, dead 1301.

William de Erccall (or de Hadley) 1227-1256.

William de Hadley, als. William de Erccall, c. 1189 - c. 1223, dep. Sheriff 1191.

Alan de Hadley.

Hamund de Hadley.

Richard de Hadley.

William de Hadley, of Erccall 1165, living 1188.

Alan de Hadley.

Saburga, mst. dau. of Isaac Feverel.

Pagan de Hulley.

Alice.

Cecily.

Petronilla, dau. of Hugh Burnell, rel. c. 1304.

Sir William de Erccall, a minor 1304, kt. 1315, knight of shire 1324 and 1325, levied fine of Erccall with consent to William de Caverswall 1334, d. soon after 1355.

Scholastica, dau. of Robert de Haslang, rel. 1316 (seal - lion rampant).

Joan, living 1334 (2nd wife of Chetwynd).

Sir John de Chetwynd (2nd husband of Joan), living 1351, dead before 1363.

(1st wife).

Petronilla, living 1334.

Robert de Erccall, living 1311 and 1334, Treb. of Castle Holgate 1322 (Eyton, iv. 74) ab' de Seales.

Isabel, dau. of Hugh Burnell, kt.

Agnes, living 1311.

John de Erccall.

Agnes or Anne, Newport.



co. Chester, knight, Solicitor General to Queen Elizabeth and Master of Requests.

For a full account of the previous history of the family of Wilbraham we must refer our readers to Ormerod's History of Cheshire, Vol. III, pp. 196-200 (original edition), and pp. 374-381 (Helsby's edition), from which the accompanying pedigree of the Wilbrahams is mainly derived. The information conveyed in a summary form in this pedigree will be sufficient for our present purpose.

Their chief estate was at Woodhey in the parish of Acton and township of Faddiley in the county of Chester, where they had been seated since the reign of King Edward IV. Thomas Wilbraham, who became possessed of this estate through his marriage with Margaret daughter and heir of John de Golborne, was fifth in descent from Sir Richard de Wilbraham, lord of Wymincham and Radnor, the earliest known ancestor of the family, who is supposed to have derived his name from the manor of Wilbraham in Cambridgeshire, where a family bearing the local name was settled about the time of Henry II.

Sir Richard Wilbraham, knight, grandfather of the Sir Thomas Wilbraham who became by his marriage with Elizabeth Mytton the owner of Weston, was created a baronet 5 May 1621, and died in April 1643. By his wife Grace, daughter of Sir John Savage of Rock Savage, knight, he left with other issue a son and heir Sir Thomas Wilbraham of Woodhey, knight and baronet. This Sir Thomas distinguished himself through the struggle of the civil wars by his loyalty, and had to compound with the Parliament for his estates for the sum of £2,500. He died a few months after the Restoration on 31 October 1660.

Of his son and successor, Sir Thomas Wilbraham of Woodhey and Weston, who had also been distinguished in the Royal service, Ormerod tells us that he "was nominated one of the knights of the intended order of the Royal Oak, his estate being then valued at £3,000 per annum. He was the thirteenth [or rather, 12th,] in lineal descent from Sir Richard de Wilbraham, and the fourteenth [? 9th,] possessor of the estate of Woodhey; and in him the direct male line of this antient family terminated."<sup>1</sup> He adds:—"The memory of private worth seldom survives the contemporaries of its possessors, but this is not the case with the Wilbrahams of Woodhey. Wherever it is possible to glance beyond genealogical deductions, and obtain a knowledge of the

<sup>1</sup> Ormerod's Cheshire, Helsby's ed, Vol. III, p. 378.



individual representatives of the family, they appear to have been graced with every social virtue that could render rank endearing to their equals, and venerated by their dependents, and their family is rarely noticed in the Cheshire collections without ardent expressions of respect and affection.<sup>1</sup> In a note to this passage Mr. Helsby says:—"There is a singular absence from the rolls of the county of the name of this family, in almost every age, in connection with 'recognizances to keep the peace'—of so very common occurrence in most of the families of this shire in those warlike ages. The consequence of this absence is that the name of Wilbraham in its various forms, is met with in the rolls but seldom, considering the extent of their estate from the time of Hen. VI."<sup>2</sup>

Sir Thomas Wilbraham had served as Sheriff of Staffordshire, before he succeeded to the baronetcy, in 1656<sup>3</sup>; and he was appointed Sheriff of Cheshire for the year 1664.<sup>4</sup> He was returned as member of parliament in 1679 for the borough of Stafford, which he continued to represent till January 1680-1.<sup>5</sup>

Sir Thomas and Lady Wilbraham appear to have lived almost entirely at Weston, where all their children were born and married; and they rebuilt the house and stables there. From some MS. notes, apparently in Lady Wilbraham's own handwriting, on the fly-leaves of a copy of "Palladio's Architecture" in the library at Weston, it would appear that the building of the house was commenced in 1671. The date 1688 with the initials TWE, is to be seen on some leaden pipes on the south front of the stables, on which, as well as on the east front of the house, is conspicuously placed a shield bearing three bends wavy, the arms of the Wilbraham family. After Sir Thomas' death his widow devoted her energies to the restoration of the church; the plans for this were prepared in 1699, and the church was re-opened on S. Andrew's Day 1702.

They had no son, their family consisting of four daughters, namely: 1. Elizabeth, who was married at Weston 6 Feb. 1672-3 to Sir Thomas Myddleton of Chirk Castle co. Denbigh, knight and baronet,<sup>6</sup> by whom she had an only child Thomas, who died young;

<sup>1</sup> Ormerod's Cheshire, Helsby's ed., Vol. III, p. 378.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 378, *n.*

<sup>3</sup> Shaw's Staffordshire, Vol. I, p. xxxvii.

<sup>4</sup> Ormerod's Cheshire, Helsby's ed., Vol. III, p. 380.

<sup>5</sup> Return of Members of Parliament, printed by order of House of Commons 1878, Part I, p. 544.

<sup>6</sup> Weston Par. Reg.





2. Grace, born at Weston 28 March 1656,<sup>1</sup> and married there 30 Sept. 1680 to Sir Lionel Tollemache of Helmingham co. Suffolk, Bart., Lord Huntingtower in the Kingdom of Scotland, afterwards Earl of Dysart<sup>2</sup>; 3. Mary, born at Weston 5 June 1661, and married there 20 April 1681 to the Hon. Richard Newport,

<sup>1</sup> Weston Par. Reg.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* This Lord Dysart, who succeeded to the earldom on the death of his mother Elizabeth, Countess of Dysart in her own right and Duchess of Lauderdale, in 1697, died in February 1727, and Grace his wife in 1744. They were succeeded by their grandson Lionel third Earl of Dysart (son of Lionel Lord Huntingtower), who, besides two sons Lionel and Wilbraham, successively fourth and fifth Earls, had two daughters his eventual coheirs, *viz.*:—1. Louisa, who succeeded her brother as Countess of Dysart, and married John Manners Esq. of Grantham Grange co. Lincoln, by whom she had a son Lionel Lord Huntingtower, who assumed the name of Tollemache only, and whose son Lionel William John, seventh Earl of Dysart, was succeeded in 1878 by his grandson William John Manners, the present Earl of Dysart; and 2. Jane, who inherited Helmingham and the Cheshire estates of the Wilbrahams, and by her husband John Delap Halliday Esq. had an elder son John, who assumed the name of Tollemache, and whose son John Tollemache Esq. was in 1876 created Lord Tollemache of Helmingham.

The following letter from Lady Wilbraham to her son-in-law Lord Dysart (communicated by the late Lady Huntingtower, mother of the present Earl of Dysart) shows how anxious she was that her grandson, Lionel Lord Huntingtower, should not make a marriage that might be unsatisfactory to his parents while under her roof, though her conscience does not seem to have been quite easy as to the means she had taken to interfere with it:—

“ My Lord

“ Novem<sup>r</sup> 4

I was extremely surpris'd upon discovery of y<sup>e</sup> enclosed, the young Lord therein concern'd is perfectly ignorant of my intersecption of his letter which happened thus: I had given him leave to goe out upon hunting of a haire, and he left this letter with some care, to be convaed that morning into the Post office, and which happened accordingly to be exposed to my sight. I cannot tell y<sup>r</sup>. Lords<sup>sh</sup>. why, but my curiosity or rather the providence of God inclyned me to peepe into it. If it wear a match to his parents' liking I conceive it would not be a secret to me; till I am assured thereof I am in some perplexity. Yet I earnestly entreate y<sup>r</sup>. Lords<sup>sh</sup>. to menage this matter with greatest caution, for he is of a spirit that can scarce bear contradiction, and I have observed from his occasionell discourse so much positiveness against marriage which I did not like fearing a secret. It is dangerous to trust such youths, especially in and about London, out of the inspection of a faithfull governor. Till I hear from y<sup>r</sup>. Lords<sup>sh</sup>. concerning this great importance I shall not take the least notice thereof to your son, and afterwards but as you apoynt me, tho' if the lady be unworthy of him, I humbly conceive it will be our business to obstruct all letters betwixt them and to delay his time with me weeke after weeke least any certaine prohibition of his returne to London should put him upon some hardy resolution not in my power to prevent, besides while the young Lord abides here, with submission to y<sup>r</sup>. Lords<sup>sh</sup>. I desire there may be no discovery made to him from whome or from whence you attained the knowledge of these matters. I need not propose waes & meanes to y<sup>r</sup>. Lords<sup>sh</sup>. how to obtain



afterwards second Earl of Bradford<sup>1</sup>; and 4. Cecilia, born at Weston 17 May 1667, who died young and was buried there 23 January 1668-9.<sup>2</sup>

By indenture dated 20 May 1686 Sir Thomas Wilbraham and Dame Elizabeth his wife made a settlement of their estates, by which after the deaths of themselves and the survivor of them the Wilbraham manor of Walsall<sup>3</sup> and Sir Thomas Wilbraham's other estates in the county of Stafford, together with the whole inheritance of Dame Elizabeth, were settled upon their younger daughter Mary, wife of the Hon. Richard Newport, and her issue, while the rest of Sir Thomas Wilbraham's estates in the counties of Chester, Denbigh and Flint or elsewhere in Wales were settled upon the elder daughter Grace, wife of Sir Lionel Tollemache Lord Huntingtower, and her issue, with remainder in each case on failure of such issue to the other daughter and her issue. The estates which were thus entailed on the Newports comprised the manors of Weston under Lizard, Bobbington, Blynhill and Tamenhorne, with certain messuages, lands and hereditaments in Weston, Beighterton, Bobbington, Blynhill, Brineton, Broekhurst, Tamenhorne, Wigginton and Elford, the

further light, or to prevent what you do not aproof, and therefore if I have bin to officious in proposing I beg your pardon as being y<sup>e</sup> effusion of a disturb'd minde never out of humour to aproof myself

My Lord

Your most faithfull servant

E. Wilbraham.

Your Lordsh<sup>ps</sup>. may be pleased to observe that the letter to the lady was enclosed in an outside paper to the gentleman. Tho' I have taken a copy of y<sup>e</sup> enclosed it will gratify me very much to hear y<sup>r</sup>. Lordsh<sup>ps</sup>. hath received it, & therefore I beg a line or two from you by the next post. By Saturday post Novem<sup>r</sup> 3 his younge Lordsh<sup>ps</sup>. received a letter, att the reading whereof he was observed to be much discomposed."

The letter which Lady Wilbraham enclosed to her son-in-law was dated "Nov<sup>ber</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup>." and signed "Lyonell Huntingtower," but the lady's name does not appear. The late Lady Huntingtower writes that he married soon after, in 1706, and against his father's consent, Henrietta Cavendish, illegitimate daughter of the Duke of Devonshire, and died in 1712.

<sup>1</sup> Weston Par. Reg. The entry of the marriage is as follows:—"M<sup>r</sup>. Richard Newport of Eyton in the parish of Roxeter in the county of Salop Esq. and M<sup>rs</sup>. Mary Wilbraham of this parish were marryed upon the 20<sup>th</sup> day of Aprill Anno Dom: 1681."

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> This manor was granted by the Crown to Richard Wilbraham Esq., Master of the Jewels to Philip and Mary, Sir Thomas's ancestor, in June 1557 (Pat. Roll, 3 & 4 Ph. & Mary, Part 9, No. 914, m. 21).







*Dame Elizabeth Wilbraham*  
*Heiress of Weston.*  
born 1631.      died 1705.







*Sir Thomas Wilbraham, Bart.  
of Woodhey.*

*born 1630. — died 1692.*



advowson of the church of Weston, and a moiety of that of Blynhill (as also the manor of Newton and lands in Newton, Blithfield, Heywood and Little Om, if Dame Elizabeth should not have otherwise disposed of them before her death), and also the manor of Walsall, the advowson of the vicarage of Walsall, with certain messuages, lands and hereditaments in Great Bloxwich, Little Bloxwich, Harden, Goscot, Shelfield and Caldmore.<sup>1</sup>

By his will, which is dated 20 Feb. 1684, Sir Thomas Wilbraham left a sum of £10 per annum, charged on certain lands at Boblington, for the purpose of apprenticing poor boys from the parishes of Weston and Blynhill to some handicraft, trade or husbandry; the lord of the manor of Weston to nominate, elect and make choice of the said boys, and to set them apprentice to such masters and trades and employments, and for such time and in such manner, as to him should seem best.

Sir Thomas Wilbraham died in August 1692, and Dame Elizabeth his wife on 27 July 1705 at the age of 74, upon which all their estates at Weston, Newton, Walsall and elsewhere in the county of Stafford passed to their daughter Mary, then Viscountess Newport, whose husband in 1708 succeeded his father as second Earl of Bradford. Thus in two generations the manor of Weston passed from the Myttons through the Wilbrahams to the Newports.

<sup>1</sup> Original deed, *penes* Earl of Bradford. From this settlement it is clear that Elizabeth Lady Middleton, their eldest daughter, died before the year 1686.



## IV. THE NEWPORTS. (A.D. 1705-1762.)

BEFORE proceeding with the account of the Newport possessors of Weston it will be convenient here to pause and review the earlier history of that family; and inasmuch as no exhaustive examination of this subject has (so far as we can ascertain) ever been made in any county history or other published work,<sup>1</sup> it has been thought desirable to make this review with much more fulness of detail than would otherwise have been attempted.<sup>2</sup>

A search into the evidences of the Newport family, who held such a high position in the county of Salop, who continued preeminent in Shropshire history for more than three centuries,<sup>3</sup> and whose estates constituted the largest tenure in fee which the county has known since Domesday,<sup>4</sup> does not serve to corroborate the earlier part of the pedigree drawn up for Sir Richard Newport in the year 1639 by Thomas Thompson Esq., Lancaster Herald, and Deputy to Sir William le Neve, Clarencieux King at Arms. This Pedigree is quoted in a "Genealogical and Historical Account of the Family of Newport of High Ercall afterwards Earls of Bradford" compiled in the latter half of the 18th century, and is there said to be taken from the records of the family. It states that an ancestor of the Newports was settled in the county of Salop in the reign of King John, and records early marriages with the families of Vernon, Young, Ayton, Thorne and Barwick. It goes on to state that the eighth in descent from the first recorded ancestor was Thomas Newport of High Ercall in the right of his wife Anne daughter and sole heir of John Ercall (or de Ercallewe) of High Ercall in the county of Salop, and that their son Thomas married Eleanor, daughter of Richard Lord Grey of Colnor K.G. and Treasurer of England, and aunt

<sup>1</sup> There is a genealogical account of the Family of Newport by the late Canon Bridgeman, privately printed at Bridgnorth in 1851, but this treatise was prepared before he had had access to Blakeway's transcript of the Newport deeds in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, and the earlier part of it does not represent his final views on the origin of the family.

<sup>2</sup> No apology is offered for this long digression. But for the convenience of any reader who is interested only in Weston itself and its successive owners, it may be stated that this subject is resumed on p. 192.

<sup>3</sup> Eyton's "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. IX, p. 97.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*





and coheir of Henry the last Lord Grey of Codnor. The armorial bearings of the two last mentioned families of Ercall and Grey have been assumed as quarterings by the Newports certainly as far back as the 16th century, when they appear on the monument in Wroxeter Church to Sir Richard Newport who died in 1570, and in the arms of his son Sir Francis Newport, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1586, in the Council Chamber of Ludlow Castle.<sup>1</sup> The Grey marriage receives corroboration from other Ercall marriage it may fairly be said that it is neither proved nor disproved by such evidence as still exists.

The alienation from the rightful heirs of the old family estates, together with all their ancient title deeds, unfortunately precludes a search among the original sources of information. There are however some valuable MS. abstracts of early Newport deeds preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, which were made by Blakeway the eminent Shropshire antiquary<sup>2</sup>; and from these it would appear that the earliest landed possessions of the family were at Cotes near Stafford, and at Newport in Shropshire, from whence their patronymic was assumed.<sup>3</sup> From the nature of some of the documents preserved among these Newport evidences it would seem that they were originally goldsmiths, or what we should now probably call bankers, in the days of the early Plantagenet kings. At one time they bore the name of Gech (variously spelt Gegh, Gegth, Geth, Geehe, Gege, Geeg, Geoge, Goge, and Goch), which rather points to a Welsh origin, and this name was for more than one generation used by them indiscriminately with that of Newport.

Among the earliest deeds is one, without date, whereby Robert Wolfuerich grants to Richard de Newport, burgess of Stafford, an acre of land in Cotes, in le Morfeld, to which Ralph de Cotes and William Reyner of Stafford are witnesses.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Documents connected with the History of Ludlow and the Lords Marchers," by the Hon. R. H. Clive, p. 271.

<sup>2</sup> Blakeway Manuscript 24. These abstracts will be referred to in the notes to the following pages as "Newport Evidences."

<sup>3</sup> It seems probable that members of this family were also settled in Shrewsbury at a very early date.

<sup>4</sup> Newport Evidences (in Bodleian Library). Ralph de Newport is sued by Ralph de Cotes and others in 38 Hen. III (1254) for half a hide of land in Cotes ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 1, p. 132); a Ralph de Newport, not improbably the same, occurs as a witness in several deeds of c. 1225 in connection with lands at Whitgreave, and is followed in one of them by "Johanne fratre ejus" (*Ibid.* Vol. VIII, Part 1, p. 198).





Adam de Newport, goldsmith (*auri faber*), of Stafford, occurs in 20 Ed. I (1292) as grantee from Richard, son of Richard de London of Stafford, of an acre of land in Coton (Cotes) near Stafford in le Morfeld<sup>1</sup>; in the same year Richard de Newport occurs as a grantee,<sup>2</sup> and in the following year as grantor,<sup>3</sup> of land in Coton (Cotes), the former grant being witnessed by Roger de Newport of Stafford. Richard de Newport occurs again as bailiff of Stafford in 24 Ed. I (1296).<sup>4</sup>

By deed, dated at Stafford on Friday after the Quindene of Easter 21 Ed. I (17 April 1293), William de Poleford, clerk, remises to William de Chateaulne and Alice his wife, and Roger de Newport and Edelyne his wife, his claim to tenures and tenements which William Sheld formerly held *in villa de Stafford*.<sup>5</sup>

In 35 Ed. I (1306-7) Robert Dunch of Stafford and Alice his wife sued Milicent formerly wife of Richard del Newport, the custos of the person of Nicholas, son and heir of the said Richard, in a plea that she should produce the heir in Court to warrant to them the third part of 18 acres of land in Cotes near Stafford, which Milicent formerly wife of Richard del Newport claimed as dower. Milicent did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to take land belonging to the heir to the value of the dower claimed into the King's land, and to summon her for three weeks from Easter.<sup>6</sup>

By deed dated at Stafford on Sunday the feast of St. Agatha the Virgin, 11 Ed. II (?) (5 Feb. 1318), Milicent widow of Richard de Newport releases to Simon Rondulf and Margaret his wife her claim in three and a half acres of land *in campo de Cotes in loco quod dicitur le Morfeld*, as they were expressed in a feoffment to the said Simon and Margaret by her son Nicholas, the son of Richard de Newport her husband.<sup>7</sup> This deed according to Blakeway's transcript is dated 11 Ed. (*i.e.* Edward I), but as it appears from the extract from the Plea Roll of 35 Ed. I quoted

<sup>1</sup> Newport Evidences.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* Alice de Chateaulne and Edeline de Newport were the sisters and apparently coheirs of William Sheld, who died before 1288 seized of lands in Stafford, Forebrugge, Burton, Foreyate and Tillinton ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. VI, Part 1, p. 179; Vol. VII, Part 1, pp. 21, 24). Roger de Newport, who was living in 1295, had a son Simon also living the same year. (*Ib.* Vol. VII, Part 1, pp. 24, 30).

<sup>6</sup> Banco Roll, Hilary 35 Ed. I, m. 140 *dorso*, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VII, Part 1, p. 183.

<sup>7</sup> Newport Evidences.



above that Nicholas, the son and heir of Richard de Newport, was still under age in that year; it seems clear that Blakeway's transcript is in this respect inaccurate. There can be little doubt that the true date of the deed was 11 "Ed. *fil.* Ed." (i.e. Edward II), in which year it may be noted that the feast of St. Agatha the Virgin fell upon a Sunday, whereas in 11 Ed. I (1283) it was a Friday.

In 12 Ed. II (1318-19) Nicholas son of Richard de Newport grants to Simon Rondulf de Stafford eight and a half acres "*in campis de Colon justa Stafford in le Morfeld inter terram Johis le Goldsmyth.*"<sup>1</sup>

From the number of deeds of land in Cotes among the Newport evidences Blakeway infers that the Newports above mentioned were ancestors of the Newports of Ercall.<sup>2</sup>

It was doubtless the same Nicholas, son of Richard de Newport, who is mentioned in the Assize Roll of the assizes taken at Stafford on the Friday after the Octaves of Trinity, 18 Ed. II (1325), where it is recorded that Nicholas, son of William de Pikestok, not prosecuting his writ of novel disseisin against Nicholas, son of Richard de Newport of Stafford, and others respecting tenements in Dunston was *in misericordia*.<sup>3</sup> Assuming this identification to be correct, he had a wife Alice, and a son and heir Richard, who was living in 1341, 1365 and 1368, in which last year we find that Richard de Newport sued Adam de Heywode for six acres of meadow in Dunston, which John son of William de Pykstoke gave to Nicholas de Newport and Alice his wife and to the heirs of their bodies, and which should descend to him as their son and heir. Adam called to warranty Nicholas Rotur, who appeared and freely warranted the tenements to him, and denied that the tenement had been given to Nicholas de Newport and Alice as stated by Adam [*quod* Richard], and appealed to a jury which was to be summoned for the Octaves of St. Hilary.<sup>4</sup> It is not improbable that this Richard de Newport (son of Nicholas and Alice) may be identical with the Richard Geeg or Gech de Newport mentioned on the following page.

<sup>1</sup> Newport Evidences.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* Pencil note on fly leaf of transcript.

<sup>3</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. IX, Part I, p. 108.

<sup>4</sup> De Banco Roll, Hil. 14 & 15 Ed. III, *m.* 165, *dorso*, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, p. 111; De Banco Roll, Mich. 39 Ed. III, *m.* 329 and De Banco Roll, Mich. 42 Ed. III, *m.* 386, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, pp. 51, 68.



We first meet with the name of Gech or Gegth among the Newport evidences in connection with Edgebaldenham or Edgebolton, a member of the manor of Great Withyford in Shropshire, about the end of the 13th century. But they seem to have had an interest there before that period. Eyton, the Shropshire historian, informs us that at the assizes of October 1203 Richard Werecoe, being impleaded under a writ of *mort d'ancestre* for a virgate in Edgeboldenham by Robert Goch, declared that he was the villein of Hugh de Upton. Robert Goch had therefore leave to exchange his writ for one against Hugh de Upton if he chose to do so.<sup>1</sup>

By deed without date, preserved in Blakeway's transcripts, we find that about the years 1294-1298 Margery, widow of John le Preyers of Dothull, granted to William Goge of Eggebaldenham and Eadith his wife her estate in Eggebaldenham, to which the witnesses were Hugh fitz Eye, William Hord, Richard Fremon of Schaubury, William Cresset and John de Wytheford. The seal to this deed bore the legend *S. Johis Alie' de Welynton*.<sup>2</sup>

On 16 November 1298 Margery, widow of John le Preyers lord of Dothull, releases to William called Gegth of Eggebaldenham and Eadith his wife all her right in a messuage and curtilage and a virgate of land in Brademedwe within the vill of Egg. [Eggebaldenham]. Witnesses William Hord, John de Stanton and Richard de la Hull of Moklyton. Dated at Welynton.<sup>3</sup>

Eyton supposes that the Robert Goch of 1203 and William Goge or Gegth of 1298 were ancestors of the Gechs, and so of the Newports of Ercall.<sup>4</sup>

In 5 Ed. III (1331) John Tournour of Newport sells to Richard Geeg of Newport all his goods etc. in Newport; to which are witnesses William de Caynton, Geoffrey Rondolf and others.<sup>5</sup>

In 17 Ed. III (1343) Richard Geyg occurs as a witness to a grant by John son of John le Tornour of Newport of a tenement there.<sup>6</sup>

In 32 Ed. III (1358) John de Brumpton releases to Richard Gegh his right in a place of waste called Haketesbrucke within

<sup>1</sup> "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. IX, p. 322.

<sup>2</sup> Newport Evidences. John le Preyers of Dothull was living in 1293 (Eyton's "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. IX, p. 61).

<sup>3</sup> Newport Evidences.

<sup>4</sup> "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. IX, p. 323, note.

<sup>5</sup> Newport Evidences. Opposite the first page of Blakeway's Transcript is the following note: "Robt de Weston of Salop in his will 1307 mentions Richard Gegh of Newport as owing him money."

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*





the manor of Longeford, which is witnessed by Thomas Gegh.<sup>1</sup> In the same year William, Abbot of Lilleshull, discharges Richard Geth and Thomas his son of a rent of 4s. of a burgage in Newport for their lives.<sup>2</sup>

In 33 Ed. III (1359) Ric. Geoge and his companions are mentioned as Farmers of Newport.<sup>3</sup> And in the same year Thomas de Newport occurs as a witness to a Caynton deed.<sup>4</sup>

In 35 Ed. III (1361) Thomas Gege and Isabel his wife demise lands in Ridelfe.<sup>5</sup>

At the end of Blakeway's transcript of a deed of 36 Ed. III (1362), by which Roger de Corthull, John de Hopton, and John de Mughale, chaplains, quit claim to Master Hen. de Shipton, Hugh le Younge, John vicar of Wenlok, and John de Corne, their right in those places of land called Calley which they had of the gift of Phil. de Patiton, occur these words, "Dat ap. Patiton Id. Jun. 1362 the exōrs of Rich. Geth appear at Newport bef. Elias Rector of Langeford *ad infrascript p magrū Robtū p<sup>o</sup>miss (?) ven. pris dñi Robti dei gra Coconti & Lich epi sequestratorem generalem.*"<sup>6</sup> Here there is an apparent break, and then follows a grant dated 42 Ed. III (1368) by Tho: Geeg of Newport of a messuage there [*sc.* at Newport], witnessed by John Pastor.<sup>7</sup> Both from the dates and nature of these two deeds and from the reference in the memorandum "*ad infrascript.*" it seems tolerably clear that the break should be after the date "Id. Jun. 1362," and that the memorandum immediately following refers not to the Patiton deed but to Thomas Geeg's grant of 1368. If this be so, there is no difficulty as regards dates in identifying the Richard Geth mentioned in the memorandum, or Richard Gech of Newport, with the Richard de Newport (son of Nicholas and Alice) who sued Adam de Heywode in 1365 and 1368.<sup>8</sup> If the date "Id. Jun. 1362" refers to the appearance of the executors of Richard Geth before the Rector of Longford and not to the preceding deed, this identification would of course be impossible.

In 2 Ric. II (1378-9) Thomas Gech and Isabel his wife have a release, dated at Ethelaston, from William le Smyth of Sutton of a place of land in Thomas's garden.<sup>9</sup>

In the next year, 3 Ric. II (1379), we find Thomas de Newport (probably the same person as Thomas Gech de Newport)

<sup>1</sup> Newport Evidences.

<sup>4</sup> Newport Ev.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ante*, p. 140.

<sup>3</sup> Harl. MS. 1984.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Newport Ev.



acting as Receiver to William de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, and giving a receipt for 25 marks dated at Ethelaston the Tuesday after Michaelmas (4 Oct. 1379).<sup>1</sup> There was a Thomas Newport who was in the commission of array for the county of Salop in 1377, and in the commission of peace for that county and the town of Shrewsbury the same year, and again in the commission of peace for the counties of Salop and Stafford in 1380.<sup>2</sup>

In 5 Ric. III (1381-2) Thomas Geche and Thomas his son have a bond for 100 marks from Thomas Yonge and others to indemnify them against waste etc. committed by them upon the manor of Legh near Worthyn in the county of Salop and other lands occupied by the Gechs by reason of the non-age of Thomas son and heir of Roger Corbet of Legh.<sup>3</sup>

In 9 Ric. II (1385-6) Fulk de Pembrugge, Juliana de Pembrugge and John Wolaston acknowledge the receipt from Thomas Gech of the sum of £27 13s. 4*d.* for the farm of the manor of Acton Trussel.<sup>4</sup> In the following year Nichol, parson of the church of Hynstoke, and John de Houle, chaplain, are acting as trustees for Thomas Gech in respect of lands and tenements in Ryxstoke, Great Sondeley and Kughten [Knighton ?] in a release dated at Ellarton on Saturday next after the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul 10 Ric. II (30 June 1386).<sup>5</sup>

In 14 Ric. II (1390-1) Thomas Gech was still farming the manor of Acton Trussell from Fulk de Pembrugge.<sup>6</sup> On 16 April 14 Ric. II (1391) he had a bond for 100 marks of gold or silver from Peter de Caverswall payable at Newport at Michaelmas 1391.<sup>7</sup>

An inquisition was held at Salop on Monday after St. Barnabas' 14 Ric. II (12 June 1391), at which the jurors find that it would not be to the injury of the Crown or any others if the King should allow Peter de Careswall, knight, and Mary his wife to enfeoff Thomas Newport, parson of the church of Eyton, and Thomas Corbet, chaplain, and their heirs, of the manor of Erealwe, so that the feoffees being seised should grant the same manor to Peter and Mary for their lives, with remainder to Thomas Gech and Isabel his wife and Thomas son of the said Thomas Gech and the heirs of the said Thomas Gech, to hold of the King *in capite*: the jurors further say that the manor was held of the King *in capite* by the service of half a knight's fee, and was worth £10 per

<sup>1</sup> Newport Ev.

<sup>2</sup> Cal. Pat. Rolls, Ric. II, 1377-1381, pp. 42, 46, 97, 513, 511.

<sup>3</sup> Newport Ev.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, cf. "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XV, p. 81.



annum, and that Peter and Mary would still have left 3 messuages and 3 carucates of land etc. at Aldemere held of Lord Burnell and worth 5 marks per annum.<sup>1</sup>

In the following year Thomas Yonge and others were bound to Thomas Gech and Thomas his son in the sum of 100 marks to be paid at Salop the next St. Martin's Day, the bond being dated Thursday after Easter 15 Ric. II (18 April 1392).<sup>2</sup>

In the same year, 15 Ric. II (1391-2), Thomas Gech and Isabel his wife and Thomas, son of the said Thomas, demise to Peter de Caverswall, knight, and Mary his wife for their lives a meadow called Wrennesmore together with a right of way thereto annexed to remove and carry hay and grass from the meadow over the land then held by Philip de Rodyngton.<sup>3</sup>

On 29 September 18 Ric. II (1394) Thomas Gech has a receipt for £100 from Petronilla, Prioress of the Black Nunnery of Brewode, and the convent of the same place, for prayer to be said for the souls of Thomas de Brumpton formerly lord of Eyton [Church Eaton] and the souls of all his ancestors [predecessors ?] and benefactors . . . .<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 14 Ric. II, No. 84. *cf.* Pedes Finium, Salop, 14 Ric. II, No. 16 (now numbered 8). In a pardon from the King, dated 15 Jan. 50 Ed. III (1376 7), for alienations without licence of the manor of Ercalwe, held *in capite*, the name of Tho. Geth occurs in conjunction with that of John Knode, Vicar of Ercalwe, as one of the feoffees on trust for the purposes of a settlement of this manor made by Peter de Caverswelle and Mary his wife on themselves in tail, remainder to Peter in tail, remainder to him [Peter] in fee (Blakeway MS., Salop 10, in Bodl. Libr., fo. 411).

<sup>2</sup> Newport Ev.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* In a note to the late Canon Bridgeman's History of Church Eaton ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 2, p. 15) it is stated that Isabel the wife of Thomas de Brumpton was the sister of Sir Adam de Peshale of Weston, and that she was married secondly to Thomas Gech de Newport and thirdly to Sir Robert Franceys, and reference is made to the above mentioned receipt given by Petronilla Prioress of the Black ladies to Thomas Gech in September 1394. It seems certain however that the whole of this statement cannot be correct, for Thomas de Brumpton, lord of Longford and Church Eaton, only died in 1382 (Inq. 6 Ric. II, No. 10), and Isabel de Peshale was married to Thomas Gech certainly as early as the year 1377 (see *ante*, p. 88), if not in 1361 (*ante*, p. 151). Besides, Isabel the widow of Thomas de Brumpton must have been married to Sir Robert Franceys before Easter 1392, more than two years before this date of the receipt ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XV, p. 48. *cf.* Eyton's "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. VIII, p. 114). It would seem therefore that Isabel, the sister of Sir Adam de Peshale and wife of Thomas Gech, cannot have been the same person as Isabel, the wife successively of Thomas de Brumpton and Sir Robert Franceys; and, as we find that Thomas Newport about the year 1411 levied a fine of the reversion of the manors of Longford and Church Eaton then held by Sir Robert Franceys and Isabel his wife for her life (see *post*, p. 157), it





In 20 Ric. II (1396-7) Thomas Gech and Isabel his wife and Thomas, son of Thomas, demise to Peter de Careswell [Caverswall], knight, and Mary his wife the lands etc. which John Boyd and Alice his wife formerly held for life of the demise of the said Peter in Cotewall and Great Erealwe, to hold for a term of 40 years at a yearly rent of 8 marks payable to the Gechs.<sup>1</sup>

In Michaelmas term 21 Ric. II (1397) Thomas Harcourt was summoned at the suit of Thomas Newport to give up to him two bonds which he unjustly detained; and Thomas Newport stated that on the Vigil of the feast of St. Mary Magdalene 20 Ric. II (21 July 1396) he had delivered to the said Thomas Harcourt the bonds in question, in one of which it was contained that *the said Thomas Newport by the name of Thomas Gech* was bound to one Peter de Careswalle, knight, in a sum of £100, and in the other it was contained that the said Peter was bound to the said Thomas Gech in £100, the said bonds to be kept in safe custody by Thomas Harcourt and to be given up to Thomas Gech on his demand. Thomas Harcourt appeared by attorney, and stated that the bonds had been delivered to him by Thomas Newport and Peter upon certain conditions, and he was ignorant whether the conditions had been fulfilled, and he prayed that Peter de Caverswalle might be summoned. The Sheriff was therefore ordered to summon the said Peter for the morrow of the Purification, to show cause why the bonds should not be given up to Thomas Newport. A postscript states that on that date Peter did not appear, and the suit was adjourned to Easter term and again to Michaelmas term, and Peter did not appear. It was therefore considered that Thomas Newport should recover the said bonds, and they were delivered to him by Thomas Harcourt.<sup>2</sup>

In Easter term 21 Ric. II (1398) Thomas Gech and Isabel his wife and Thomas son of Thomas Gech sued Peter de Caverswalle and Mary his wife for waste and destruction in lands, houses, woods, and gardens in Erealwe, which Peter and Mary held for their lives and which should revert to the plaintiffs by virtue of a fine which

is more probable that the Gechs or Newports claimed these manors by purchase, and not through marriage with Thomas de Brumpton's widow as suggested in the History of Church Eaton.

<sup>1</sup> Newport Ev.

<sup>2</sup> De Banco Roll, Mich. 21 Ric. II, *m.* 99 *dorso*, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XV, p. 81. This entry is important as establishing beyond all question the correctness of the inference drawn without its aid by the late Mr. Eyton ("Ant. Shrop.," Vol. IX, p. 97) as to the identity of Thomas Gech and Thomas Newport.





*Arms of Ercall.*—*Arg.*, three bars gemels *sa.*.

William de Hadley.  $\equiv$  Seburgh, nat. dau. of Hamo Peverel.

Alan de Hadley.

William de Hadley,  $\equiv$  Sibil.

Pagan de Hadley.

Ercall of temp. Hen. III and referred to in 1376—7 as having been "cousin and heir" of the last Sir William de Ercall, lord of Ercall, d. 1359.

William de Hadley,  $\equiv$  Sibil.

Pagan de Hadley.

Philip de Lyc.  $\equiv$  . . . .

William de Chetwynd.

William de Caverswall, d. s.p.

Sir Peter de Caverswall, kt. 1369 and 1381, lord of Ercall 1387, levied fine in favour of Thomas Gech (de Newport) and Isabel his wife and Thomas his son in 1391 and 1398, d. s.p.

Mary, lady of Ercall 1367, living 1391 and 1398.

Petronilla, cousin and heir of Sir Peter de Caverswall, m. Thomas de Marchinton, living 1411 (Staff. Coll., xv. 126).

John de Chetwynd.

Joan de Chetwynd, m. (1) Sir Richard de Peslele, kt. 1343 (Duke's Shropshire, 167); (2) W. Slepe 1398 (Staff. Coll., xv. 90); (3) Robert Heywode 1403 and 1404 (Staff. Coll., xv. 109; Eyton, viii. 89); (4) Robert Typpott 1409-10 (Eyton, viii. 89).

*Arms of Caverswall.*—*Az.*, fretty *arg.*, a fesse *gile*, for *arg.*. *Arms of Sir Peter de Caverswall.*—*Arg.*, two bars cottised *sa.*, (Staff. Coll., iii. Part 2, p. 23), or *Arg.*, two bars gemels *sa.*, for *arg.*. *Newport.*

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 87.  
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 p. 97.







had been levied. The defendants did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to attach them for the Octaves of Holy Trinity.<sup>1</sup>

On 6 October 1398 a fine was levied at Westminster whereby Peter de Cavereswall, knight, and Mary his wife surrender their life interest in the manor of Erealwe to Thomas Gech, Isabel his wife, and Thomas his son, to hold of the King by the accustomed services. A rent of £50 per annum is reserved by the grantors with power of distress, and a sum of £200 is also stated to be paid for the grant.<sup>2</sup>

From the documents quoted above it appears that the Gechs or Newports obtained the manor of Erecall by purchase, but notwithstanding this Eyton was of opinion that they had some hereditary claims to the estate independently of the money which passed, and he bases his opinion on the following grounds:— (1) because tradition asserts it, though with much inaccuracy as to the mode of relationship, (2) because the Newports uniformly quartered the arms of Erecall, and (3) because the muniments of the Erecalls, whether they related to Erecall or to other estates, were afterwards held by the Newports.<sup>3</sup>

The accompanying sketch pedigree of the Erecalls and Cavereswalls, with the exception of such parts as are inserted in italics, is deduced from Blakeway's transcript of the Newport evidences, supplemented on one or two points from Eyton's Antiquities of Shropshire and other trustworthy sources, and it is believed to be quite correct as far as it goes. The additions in italics are taken from a MS. pedigree amongst the papers of Mr. George Morris of Shrewsbury, which, though it is in some respects inaccurate, may help to solve the mystery of the connection between the families of Newport and Erecall. According to this MS. pedigree Robert de Erecall (son of John de Erecall the younger brother of the last Sir William de Erecall), who is described as "al<sup>o</sup>. de Seales May 1322 Preb<sup>dy</sup>. Castle Holgate," married Isabel daughter of Sir Hugh Burnell, knight, by whom he had a son John de Erecall, whose only daughter Agnes or Anne living *temp.* Henry IV married Thomas Newport. The date here assigned to Agnes or Anne, the daughter of John and granddaughter of Robert de Erecall, must be erroneous, but in other respects there is nothing inconsistent with the existing evidence in this descent. Robert

<sup>1</sup> De Banco Roll, Easter, 21 Ric. II, *m.* 468, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XV, p. 87.

<sup>2</sup> Pedes Finitum, Salop, 22 Ric. II, No. 72 (now numbered 33). *cf.* Eyton's "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. IX, p. 96.

<sup>3</sup> Eyton's "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. IX, p. 97.





de Ercall, who was living in 1311 and 1334, might well have had a marriageable granddaughter in or before the year 1358, when the name of Thomas Gech *alias* Newport (the elder), son of Richard Gech, first appears among the Newport evidences, and there is nothing improbable in the supposition that she may have married this Thomas Newport. If this be so, she must have been his first wife and have died before the year 1361, by which time we find him married to another wife named Isabel. It is also worthy of notice that Thomas Gech (the younger), son of the above mentioned Thomas Gech, is always referred to as the son of Thomas Gech only, and never as the son of Thomas and Isabel, in the many deeds in which all three names occur together.

A license dated 6 Jan. 1398 was procured by Thomas Newport and Isabel his wife from the Bishop of Lichfield to cause divine service to be performed before them in any of their oratories within the diocese.<sup>1</sup> After this year we hear nothing more of Thomas Gech or Newport the elder, and he probably died about the year 1400. Eyton says that he was dead in 1401,<sup>2</sup> and the Thomas Newport of Ercalwe, who with others had a general release from Thomas Banastre of Gnousale, dated Thursday the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr 2 Hen. IV (7 July 1401),<sup>3</sup> would be his son Thomas Gech or Newport the younger. Besides this eldest son Thomas Gech appears to have had another son, John, who, as John son of Thomas Gech, having the first tonsure, was instituted to the free chapel of Waters Upton (originally a chapelry in the parish of High Ercall) on 27 June 1382, and died in 1387.<sup>4</sup>

On 27 June 1402 Thomas Newport with Margaret his wife obtained an episcopal license similar to that granted to his father,<sup>5</sup> and in 1403-4 he served as Sheriff of Shropshire.<sup>6</sup>

In 7 Hen. IV (1405-6) Thomas Newport of Ercawe Esq. and Letitia, late wife of Robert Cokkes of Colshull, demise their hostelry in Colshull to Thomas le Smyth of Wich Malbanec.<sup>7</sup> On Thursday the Eve of St. Margaret the Virgin 9 Hen. IV (19 July 1408) Thomas Newport lord of Ercalwe and others had a general release of all personal actions from William Houle son of John Houle of Cottewall.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Blakeway's *Sheriffs of Shropshire*, p. 58.

<sup>2</sup> Eyton's "*Ant. Shrop.*," Vol. IX, p. 97.

<sup>3</sup> Newport Ev.

<sup>4</sup> "*Ant. Shrop.*," Vol. VIII, p. 59.

<sup>5</sup> Blakeway's *Sheriffs of Shropshire*, p. 58.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 14, 58.

<sup>7</sup> Newport Ev. Letitia Cokkes was the mother of Margaret Newport.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*



By deed dated at Ercalwe Magna on Monday the Eve of the Nativity of the Virgin 12 Hen. IV (7 Sept. 1411) Thomas Newport granted to Humphrey de Halughton Esq., *Magister* Nicholas Peshale, and *Magister* Thomas Newport, clerks, all his goods and chattels within the kingdom except his wearing apparel.<sup>1</sup> In the same year, as Thomas Newport Esquire of co. Salop, he grants the reversion of certain lands in Colleshull co. Warwick, which Letitia late wife of Robert Cokkus otherwise called Robert Lynches of Colleshull holds for her life, to the same three persons named in the last deed and Roger Tenote, clerk. This deed is dated at Ercalwe Magna Wednesday before the Decollation of St. John Baptist (26 Aug. 1411).<sup>2</sup>

The following memorandum, without date but from the names of the trustees evidently belonging or referring to this same period, occurs on a fly leaf amongst Blakeway's abstracts of the Newport deeds in the Bodleian Library:—*Soit dens de Thomas Newport esquier. Fait a rembr p̄ leu un fyn a unfrey de Halughton esquier meistr' Nichol de Peshale meistre Thom Newport & a Roif Tenote clerkes & a les heirs de dit Roger del man' de Ercalwe . . . le quel man' ils ont de fessément de dit T. N. esq. & auri a gūnter en mesme le fyn lez ren'cons dez man's de Longford . . . en le com. de Salop & de Chirehe Eyton en le com. de Staff' . . . les quez Robert Franceys c̄ter & Isabell sa feme tienont p̄ l' me de vie de la dit Isabell & de la quint ptie de man' del Weston souz the lezord en com. de Staff. le quel Adm̄ de Peshale chr tient a l' me de sa vie & les queuz ap's la morte de la dite Isab & Adm̄ a dit Thom. Newport esquier & a ces heirs oivier dererent remaynderont as ditz U. N. T. & R. & a les heirs de dit Rog. Et dauci plez a David Huls ou a Thom Huls demant in Greysyne ppain'fuer (?) ybr̄es de corcnant p̄ leu le dit fyn, directe a vie de Salop & un autre a vie del Staff' pentz' lez pties aiant nomes dez man' & reu'rons oec lez app' aiant dit: retornables al vij de scynt Mich' p̄che a venir p' engrosser le dit fyn.*" This memorandum has already been referred to in connection with the manor of Weston itself.<sup>3</sup> Isabel, then the wife of Robert Franceys, who with her husband then held the manors of Longford and Church Eaton for her life, had previously been married to Thomas de Brumpton, lord of Longford and Church Eaton, who died in 1382: she was married to Sir Robert Franceys before Easter 1392,<sup>4</sup> was

<sup>1</sup> Newport Ry.<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*<sup>3</sup> *Ante*, p. 95.<sup>4</sup> "Staff. Coll." Vol. XV, p. 48.



again a widow in 1420,<sup>1</sup> living in 1432 and dead in 1438.<sup>2</sup> Of the trustees *Magister* Nicholas de Peshale was Rector of Kings Lynn in the diocese of Lincoln before 5 Feb. 1384, when he exchanged with the Rector of Edgmond, and this latter rectory he resigned in September 1425<sup>3</sup>; there was a monument erected to his memory in Edgmond Church.<sup>4</sup> Thomas de Newport, then clerk and subdeacon, was instituted to the Rectory of Bolas on the King's presentation 8 November 1366; in July 1367 he had license for a year's non-residence *studendi gratiâ*, and in 1377 he resigned; in July 1391 he occurs as Rector of Eyton on the Wealdmoors, and in July 1395 his title to the Rectory of Pulverbatch, to which he had been presented by Thomas Gache (Gech), was confirmed by writ of King Richard II: this last preferment he apparently retained until his death in 1413.<sup>5</sup> Roger lenote was parson of Boulewas (Bolas) in 1420.<sup>6</sup>

On 26 Feb. 1 Hen. V (1414) Thomas Newport of Ercall has a bond from Thomas le Yonge of Sybton and Thomas Corbet of Lye by statnte merchant for £300 to secure the delivery to him of letters patent granted by Thomas Earl of Arundell to Thomas le Yonge of the wardships and marriage of Walter son and heir of Walter de Hopton<sup>7</sup>; and on 8 March of the same year he takes a receipt from the same Thomas le Yonge for £20.<sup>8</sup>

In 8 Hen. V (1420-1) Thomas Newport of Ercallowe grants to *Magister* Nicholas Peshale, clerk, William Walford, parson of the Church of Wythynton, and Roger lenote, parson of Boulewas, the fifth part of the manor of Weston under Loseyord and the fifth part of the advowson of the church of the said manor in co. Stafford and the reversion of the lands etc. in Coleshull in co. Warwick holden by Letitia relict of Robert Cokkes; the witnesses to this deed being Richard son of Humphry de Peshale, Thomas son of Walter de Hopton, Richard Brond and others.<sup>9</sup>

This seems to be the last we hear of this Thomas Newport (or Thomas Gech the younger), and he probably died soon after; for two years later, viz. in 10 Hen. V (1422-3), Letitia formerly wife of Robert Cokkes of Colshull grants all her lands in Colshull to

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVII, p. 72.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, Part 2, p. 16.

<sup>3</sup> Eyton's "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. IX, p. 129.

<sup>4</sup> Harl. MS. 2129 (Church Notes taken c. 1660).

<sup>5</sup> Eyton's "Ant. Shrop.," Vol. VI, p. 204; Vol. VIII, pp. 36, 272.

<sup>6</sup> Newport Ev.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

*Ibid.*





Richard Newport Esquire and the heirs of his body, with remainder to her daughter Margaret mother of the said Richard and the heirs of her body.<sup>1</sup> And a few years afterwards we find Margaret Newport married again. For in 3 Hen. VI (1424-5) there is a deed of Thomas Newport Esquire, by which he confirms a demise of a messuage in Newport made by Richard Archer Esquire and Margaret his wife "my mother" to Mathew Edward.<sup>2</sup>

Richard Newport *Esquire*, the grantee from his grandmother of her lands in Coleshill in 1422-3, was probably the eldest son of Thomas and Margaret Newport, but if so, he must have died without issue shortly after that date, for, as we have seen, Thomas Newport *Esquire* confirmed his mother's demise in 1424-5, and in various deeds between the years 1432 and 1441 he is described as lord of Ercall. Thus, in 11 Hen. VI (1432-3) Thomas Wryght of Cottwall and Alice his wife gave a general release from all actions to Thomas Newport lord of Erhall.<sup>3</sup> In 13 Hen. VI (1434-5) Thomas Rondolf of Wodekote was bound in 10 marks to Thomas Newport of Erhall Magna Squier.<sup>4</sup> And in 19 Hen. VI (1440-1) Thomas Newport Esqr. lord of Ercalewe leased half the vill of Cottewalle to William Jevans.<sup>5</sup>

Amongst Blakeway's transcripts of the Newport Evidences we find nothing to show who was the wife of this Thomas Newport, but, notwithstanding the findings of the jurors in two inquisitions taken in 1532 and the judgment of the Court of Exchequer in 1535 hereinafter referred to, a review of all the evidence now available leaves no room for a doubt of the accuracy on this point of the statement contained in the Genealogical Account of the Family already referred to on the authority of the Pedigree drawn up by Thomas Thompson, Lancaster Herald, in 1639. It is there stated that he married Eleanor daughter of Richard Lord Grey of Codnor K.G. and aunt and co-heir of Henry the last Lord Grey of Codnor, and inasmuch as the representation to this ancient peerage is a matter of some general interest and the evidence on this point has, it is believed, never been fully published, no apology is offered for the following digression, although its length may appear out of proportion to its bearing on the history of the manor of Weston.

Richard Lord Grey of Codnor married in or before the year 1378 Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Ralph Lord Basset of

<sup>1</sup> Newport Ev.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*



Sapcote, then aged 7,<sup>1</sup> and died 1 Aug. 1418 leaving a son and heir John, then aged 22,<sup>2</sup> his wife Elizabeth, and other children also surviving him. John, Lord Grey of Codnor, died without issue 14 Sept. 1430 leaving his brother Henry his heir, then aged 25.<sup>3</sup> Henry, Lord Grey of Codnor, married Margaret daughter and coheir of Sir Henry Percy of Athole, and died 17 July 1444 leaving a son and heir Henry, then aged 9.<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth, the widow of Richard Lord Grey, survived both of these sons, and died 7 Aug. 1451 leaving her grandson Henry her heir, then aged 16. During her life she had settled the manors of Benyfeld co. Northants, Cheyle Hall, South Wytham and Meteryngham co. Lincoln, and some messuages at Thistleton co. Rutland, upon her daughter Elizabeth and her then (second) husband John Zouche Esq., afterwards knight, and by her will she directed the feoffees of her other estates, viz. the manor of Langworth Basset co. Derby, and the manor of Corby and a moiety of the manor of Castle Bytham co. Lincoln, to convey these estates also to her daughter and her husband, if her grandson and heir should when he came of age refuse to confirm the settlement in their favour of the other estates.<sup>5</sup> Margaret, the widow of Henry Lord Grey, afterwards married Sir Richard Vere, knight, and died 22 Sept. 1464 leaving Henry, then Lord Grey, her son and heir aged 28.<sup>6</sup> This Henry, the last Lord Grey of Codnor, was married three times, (1) to Margaret ———, (2) *c.* 1454 to Katherine daughter of Thomas Strangways (by Katherine, daughter of Ralph Nevill Earl of Westmorland and widow of John Mowbray Duke of Norfolk), and (3) to Katherine, daughter of William Stourton, Baron Stourton, and widow of Sir William Berkely, knight. He died without legitimate issue 8 April 1496, whereupon (according to a long array of authorities mentioned hereafter) the barony fell into abeyance between the descendants of his aunts, viz. 1. Elizabeth, who married (1) Richard Vernon Esq. and (2) Sir John Zouche, knight, younger son of William Lord Zouche of Haringworth; 2. Eleanor, who married Thomas Newport of Ercall; and 3. Lucy, who married

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 2 Ric. II, No. 8.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. 6 Hen. V, No. 5.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 9 Hen. VI, No. 15.

<sup>4</sup> Inq. 22 Hen. VI, No. 35 and Inq. 26 Hen. VI, No. 11.

<sup>5</sup> Inq. 29 Hen. VI, No. 34.

<sup>6</sup> Inq. 4 Ed. IV, No. 30.



Sir Rowland Lenthall and left two daughters and coheirs, of whom Catherine married William, Lord Zouche of Haringworth, and Elizabeth married Thomas Cornwall of Burford co. Oxon.

There is unfortunately no inquisition extant at the Record Office which was taken at the time of the death of Henry, last Lord Grey of Codnor. However on the death of his widow Katherine, who died 26 Nov. 1521, several inquisitions were taken, the various findings in which it is impossible to reconcile, though a fairly satisfactory explanation of the discrepancies can be suggested. Thus, at an inquisition held at Brentwood 1 March 1522 an Essex jury find that long before the death of Henry Lord Grey of Codnor, knight, husband of Katherine, Thomas Leek and Roger Johnson (their feoffees) had recovered against the said Henry Grey and Katherine then his wife, late the wife of Sir William Berkely, knight, (*inter alia*) the manor of Thurrok Grey co. Essex and lands etc. there, and were seised to the use of Henry and Katherine for their joint lives and the life of the survivor, with remainder to the use of Henry in fee to perform his will, that the feoffees then demised the same lands to Henry and Katherine for their lives and the life of the survivor, that Henry Grey died 8 April 11 Hen. VII (1496) without issue, that after his death in consideration that one *Thomas Cornwall*, knight, and *John Newport* were then his next heirs<sup>1</sup> the feoffees had, by deed dated 4 July 19 Hen. VII (1504), granted (*inter alia*) the reversion of this manor to Thomas Cornwall and John Newport and others in fee, as to one moiety to the use of Thomas Cornwall in fee and as to the other moiety to the use of John Newport in fee, that John Newport and two others of the grantees under the last mentioned deed had then died, and afterwards Katherine died 25 Nov. 13 Hen. VIII (1521), upon which the grantees became seised of the manor as to one moiety to the use of Thomas Cornwall and as to the other to the use of Thomas Newport the son of John Newport, and that John Stourton, knight, lord of Stourton, was the cousin and next heir of Katherine and was aged 60 and more.<sup>2</sup> In the same year a Kent jury were unable to agree on the truth of the matter, and at an adjourned inquisition held at Maidstone the following year a similar finding is returned as to the manor of

<sup>1</sup> This finding ignores, not only the representatives of one of the sisters, Elizabeth, who married Sir John Zouche, but also Catherine, wife of William Lord Zouche, one of the daughters of another sister Lucy, who married Sir Rowland Lenthall.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. 13 Hen. VIII, No. 72.





Aylesford and the hundreds of Hoo and Halstowe co. Kent so far as regards the title up to the death of Henry Lord Grey and as regards the heir of Katherine, but the jurors do not deal with the question of the descent of these manors after the death of Lord Grey and his widow.<sup>1</sup>

On the other hand, at an inquisition held at Ashby de la Zouche 17 June 14 Hen. VIII (1523) a Leicestershire jury find that Thomas Leek and Roger Johnson in 5 Hen. VII (1489-90) granted the manors of Sapeote and Stannton co. Leicester to Henry Grey of Codnor, knight, and Katherine his wife and the heirs and assigns of Henry, that Henry Grey died 8 April 11 Hen. VII (1496) leaving his wife Katherine surviving, whereupon the reversion in fee simple belonged to *John Zouche* Esquire as cousin and next heir of Henry Grey, that John Zouche Esq. died leaving a son John Zouche, knight, that Katherine Grey died 26 Nov. 13 Hen. VIII (1521), and that *John Zouche*, knight, was cousin and next heir of Henry Grey of Codnor, knight, viz.: son of John, son of Elizabeth, sister of Henry, father of Henry Grey of Codnor, knight, named in the writ.<sup>2</sup> And a similar finding as to the heir of Henry Lord Grey of Codnor is returned by a Lincolnshire jury at an inquisition held at Coston 26 Jan. 14 Hen. VIII (1523), where the will of Elizabeth widow of Richard Lord Grey is set out, and the jurors also find that Henry Lord Grey failed to give security to confirm the settlement of Cheyle Hall etc., and that accordingly the manor of Corby and a moiety of the manor of Castle Bytham co. Lincoln, as well as the manor of Langworth Basset co. Derby, belonged of right to the Zouches.<sup>3</sup>

From these inconsistent findings in the various inquisitions it is tolerably obvious that for some reason or other there was a dispute as to the succession. Some further light is thrown upon this dispute by the inquisitions taken on the death of Sir John Zouche in 1529 and of Sir Thomas Cornwall in 1538, from which it would appear that the Zouches, although they claimed as sole heirs and not coheirs of Lord Grey, had another and probably a better title by purchase of the reversion from him, and it may be that the real question was as to what lands were included in this purchase, which at the time of Lord Grey's death had not been completed, although part of the purchase money had been

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 14 Hen. VIII, No. 118.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. 14 Hen. VIII, No. 38.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 14 Hen. VIII, No. 67; cf. Inq. 29 Hen. VI, No. 31, referred to *ante*, p. 160.



paid. The Zouches seem to have been ousted from the manor and estates at Aylesford co. Kent by the other coheirs, who still remained in possession of their shares of the Kent and Essex estates in 1538, Sir Thomas Cornwall having bought up the interest of the Newports.

By the inquisition taken on the death of Sir John Zouche, knight, in 1529 a Kent jury find that long before the death of Henry Grey, Lord Grey of Codnor, Thomas Leek and Roger Johnson had in Michaelmas term 5 Hen. VII (1489) recovered against Henry Grey and Katherine his wife the hundred of Hoo and manors of Hoo, Halstowe, and Aylesford, and were seised to the use of Henry Grey and his heirs, that they in consideration of £400 paid by John Zouche, father of Sir John, then sole heir apparent of Henry Grey, had bargained and sold to him the reversion of the manor of Codnor co. Derby and of (*inter alia*) the hundreds and manors of Hoo and Halstowe co. Kent, the purchase money being paid partly to Henry Grey in his lifetime and partly to his executors, that on Henry Grey's death John Zouche became entitled both as *purchaser* and as *sole heir* of Henry Grey to the reversion of the said manors of Hoo and Halstowe subject to Katherine's life interest, and that on her death Sir John Zouche, knight, entered and died 20 June last past seised of certain marshes parcel of the same manors, that Leek and Johnson had by deed dated 1 Feb. 5 Hen. VII (1489-90) granted (*inter alia*) the manor of Aylesford to Henry Lord Grey and Katherine his wife and the heirs of Henry, who entered and died seised, that after the death of Henry and Katherine it descended to Sir John Zouche, knight, as sole heir of Henry etc., that Sir John Zouche entered and was seised of the said manor until he was unjustly disseised by Thomas Cornwall, knight, and Thomas Newport Esq., that Sir John Zouche had since died as aforesaid, and that George Zouche was his son and heir aged 26 and more.<sup>1</sup> And in the same year a Lincolnshire jury find that George Zouche was heir of Elizabeth (Basset), wife of Richard Lord Grey of Codnor.<sup>2</sup>

But the clearest and, it is submitted, the most accurate account is that given by a Kent jury at an inquisition held at Bromley 30 July 30 Hen. VIII (1538) on the death of Sir Thomas Cornwall, knight, where it was found that Thomas Leek and Roger Johnson recovered in Michaelmas term 5 Hen. VII (1489) against

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 21 Hen. VIII, No. 69.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. 21 Hen. VIII, No. 3.



Henry Grey, knight, Lord Grey of Codnor, and Katherine his wife (*inter alia*) the manors of Aylesford and Hoo and the hundreds of Hoo and Halstowe and 12 messuages, 50 acres of land, 200 of meadow, 200 of pasture, 40 of wood, and £10 rent in Aylesford, Hoo, and Halstowe, co. Kent, that being so seised they by deed dated 1 Feb. 5 Hen. VII (1489-90) granted to Henry Grey, knight, Lord Grey of Codnor, and Katherine his wife, late the wife of Sir William Berkely, the manors of Aylesford and Hoo, [the hundred of] Halstowe and the hundred of Hoo, co. Kent, as well as the manor of Thurrok Grey co. Essex, the manors of Sapeote and Staunton co. Leicester, and the manor of Langwith Basset co. Derby, etc. etc., which they had recovered in Michaelmas term 5 Hen. VII (1489), to the said Henry and Katherine and the heirs of Henry; that Henry Grey Lord Grey of Codnor died 8 April 11 Hen. VII (1496); that Katherine died 25 Nov. 13 Hen. VIII (1521); on whose death the said manors etc. descended to the said Thomas Cornwall, knight, and one John Zouche, knight, Lord Zouche, Thomas Newport Esq. and John Zouche, knight, as cousins and next heirs of Henry Grey, knight, Lord Grey of Codnor; viz. to Thomas Cornwall as son of Edward son of Elizabeth one of the daughters and heirs of Lucy daughter and one of the heirs of Richard Grey formerly Lord Grey of Codnor father of Henry father of the said Henry late Lord Grey of Codnor, to John Zouche Lord Zouche as son of John son of Catherine the other of the daughters and heirs of the said Lucy daughter and one of the heirs of the said Richard Grey Lord Grey of Codnor etc., to *Thomas Newport as son of John son of William son of Eleanor another of the daughters and one of the heirs of the said Richard Grey Lord Grey of Codnor etc.*, and to John Zouche, knight, as son of John son of Elizabeth daughter and one of the heirs of the said Richard Lord Grey of Codnor etc.; that the said Thomas Cornwall was at the time of his death seised of (*inter alia*) a moiety of one third part of the said manors of Aylesford and Hoo and hundreds of Hoo and Halstowe etc.; that one John Taylor, clerk, was seised of (*inter alia*) Thomas Newport's one third part of the same manors etc. to the use of the said Thomas Cornwall and his heirs by virtue of a deed executed by Thomas Newport in favour of the said John Taylor and others (since deceased); that Thomas Cornwall died 20 Aug. 29 Hen. VIII (1537), and on his death his moiety of one third and the use of Thomas Newport's one third descended to Richard Cornwall his





son and heir aged 38.<sup>1</sup> And again, an Essex jury find that Thomas Cornwall, knight, died seised of three parts [*qua*. three sixths] of lands in Thurrok Greys co. Essex.<sup>2</sup> A few years previously George Zouche had established against the Crown his right to livery of a moiety of the manors of Sapcote and Staunton co. Leicester as heir of Elizabeth (Basset), wife of Richard Grey Lord Grey of Codnor. The proceedings are recited at length in the judgment of the Court of Exchequer, Easter term 27 Hen. VIII (1535), which is given in full in Nichols' Leicestershire,<sup>3</sup> from which it appears that the Crown claimed through a certain John Busshe, the descendant of Katherine, the wife of Sir William Flamvyle, knight, of Aston, who was alleged to be one of the daughters of Richard Grey Lord Grey of Codnor. This claim of the Crown was disproved, but the real coheirs do not appear to have been before the Court, and it is possible that a partition may have been previously made among the coheirs, under which the moiety of these manors had been allotted to the Zouches, or it may have been included in their purchase from Henry Grey, the last Lord Grey of Codnor.

But whatever doubt there might otherwise have been as to the existence of the other coheirs is, it is submitted, set at rest by the terms of the will of Henry Lord Grey himself. This will is dated 10 Sept. 1492, and it was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 28 Oct. 1496.<sup>4</sup> After making provision for his wife Katherine and his three bastard sons Richard and the two Harrys, the marriage portions of two of whom he directs shall be paid by his *cousin Sir Thomas Burowe* (in another part of the will spelt Burow) or his heirs or else that "the land of his part" shall stand still in the feoffees' hands till 200 marks shall have been given and paid to the marriage of the said two children, the will proceeds as follows:—

"Also I will that *my cousin Sowche* delyver his somme and his

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 30 Hen. VIII, No. 38. It will be noticed that, although it is not stated in this inquisition that the Newport who married Eleanor Grey was Thomas Newport of Ercall, the names of their son, grandson and great grandson, viz. William, John and Thomas, and the approximate date of the death of John Newport the grandson, correspond exactly with the names of the successive lords of Ercall and with the date of the death of John Newport, grandson of Thomas Newport of Ercall, who died Oct. 1512 (see *post*, pp. 168-173).

<sup>2</sup> Inq. 30 Hen. VIII, No. 73.

<sup>3</sup> Nichols' Leicestershire, Vol. IV, pp. 964-968.

<sup>4</sup> 34 Vox. It is also quoted with substantial, though not literal, accuracy in Nichols' Leicestershire, Vol. III, p. 863, *note*.



heire accordyng to his wrytyng which my wife bath the bill of or else to pay . . . hundred marks of money to me or to my executoours which I will that it go to the payment of my detts and to my buryal and performacion of my Will at Ailesford Also I will that the [*sc.* they] labour or cause to be laboured that Frier Thomas Grege be Prior of Ailesford and also that *Lentall part and Newport parte of my lande* I will that echon [*sc.* each one] of my howseolde servaunts whoes names are hereunder written have a annuete or a yearly fee or rent for terme of thaire lyves *goyng owte of those ij partes* yerely as apperith hereafter” [here follows a long list of annuities amounting altogether to £33 6s. 8d.]. “I will that echon of all these a fore written have every man syngulerly his some *owte of thes ij partes afore Rechersid* for terme of their life or ellis echon of them to be agreed withall *And if any of my heires will not fulfille this my laste Will that then I will that thaire parte* stand still in my feoffes’ and secutoours’ hands for terme of xl. yere to fulfill this my laste Will wt.”

From this extract it is clear that the heirs of Henry Lord Grey of Codnor included, in addition to his “cosyn Sowche,” also Sir Thomas Barowe or Burow and the families of Lentall and Newport. Sir Thomas Barowe or Burgh was the first Lord Burgh of Gainsborough co. Lincoln, whose mother was Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir Henry Percy of Athole, and sister of Margaret mother of Henry last Lord Grey of Codnor.<sup>1</sup> He was therefore his heir apparent *ex parte maternâ*, but he died the same year as Lord Grey leaving a son Edward his heir,<sup>2</sup> and Edward Lord Burgh entered upon the lands which Henry Lord Grey had inherited from his mother.<sup>3</sup> The other heirs mentioned in the will, viz. Lentall and Newport, would be the descendants of Sir Rowland Lenthall and of Thomas Newport of Ercall.

Additional confirmation, if any were required, is given by Leland the antiquary, writing some forty or fifty years after the death of the last Lord Grey of Codnor. In his Itinerary<sup>4</sup> he says:—

“The last Lord Grey of Codnor left 3. Doughtars<sup>5</sup> whereof

<sup>1</sup> Fine Roll, 11 Hen. VI, m. 13.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. 11 Hen. VII, No. 59.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 24 Hen. VII, No. 89, True Bill; cf. Inq. 23 Hen. VII, No. 81.

<sup>4</sup> Leland's Itinerary, Vol. VIII, fo. 107b. (Hearn's 2nd ed. 1745, p. 92). Leland died April 1552. The Itinerary was begun about 1538.

<sup>5</sup> They were really aunts of the last Lord Grey, being daughters of his grandfather Richard Lord Grey of Codnor.



one was married to Syr Rowland Lenthall of Notyngnamshire, *a nothar to Newport of Shropshire*, and the third to one Souche a yongar Brothar of the Howse of the Lord Souches. Thes 3, had the Lord Grayes Lands in Copartion, where of the Lordeshippe of Ailesford in Kent and How Hundred was Parte, the whiche Master Wyatt now hathe bowght. There were some of the Lord Grayes of Codnor byried at Ailesford Freres. Lenthall dyenge without Isswe male lefte 2. Dowghtars, whereof one callyd Caterina was married to one of the Lord Souches, the other to Cornwale Baron of Burford, and so cam they to be copartiners in the Lord Grey of Codnor's Lands."

This passage from Leland is quoted in Banks' Extinct Baronage of England,<sup>1</sup> and substantially the same view is taken by the authors of Blore's Rutland,<sup>2</sup> Glover's Derbyshire,<sup>3</sup> Baker's Northamptonshire,<sup>4</sup> and Nicolas's Synopsis of the Peerage, and last but not least by the accurate and learned author of the Complete Peerage by G. E. C. [*sc.* G. E. Cockayne, now Clarencieux King of Arms] *sub nom.* Grey de Codnor.<sup>5</sup> Finally the arms of Grey of Codnor were quartered on the monument at Wroxeter Church to Sir Richard Newport, who died in 1570, and in the arms of his son Sir Francis Newport, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1586 and Councillor in 1608, as depicted in the Council Chamber in Ludlow Castle.<sup>6</sup>

After this long digression on the coheirs of Lord Grey of Codnor we now return to Thomas Newport of Ercall. In the MS. Account of the Newport Family already more than once referred to it is stated that "the services of this Thomas Newport to the Crown were acknowledged in a letter of the Prince of Wales, afterwards King Henry the 5th, to his father, wherein he styles

<sup>1</sup> Banks' Extinct Baronage of England, Vol. II, p. 228.

<sup>2</sup> Blore's Rutland, p. 162.

<sup>3</sup> Glover's Derbyshire, Vol. II, pp. 343, 346.

<sup>4</sup> Baker's Northamptonshire, Vol. I, p. 659.

<sup>5</sup> Complete Peerage, Vol. IV, p. 98, note (d):—"These" [*sc.* the aunts of Henry last Lord Grey of Codnor, between whom or their descendants the Barony fell into abeyance on his death,] "were (1) Elizabeth, who m. Sir John Zouche, and whose issue became in her right of Codnor; (2) Eleanor, who m. Thomas Newport of High Ercall, Salop, ancestor of the Earls of Bradford; and (3) Lucy who m. Sir Rowland Lenthall, and left two daughters and coheirs, viz. Catherine wife of William Lord Zouche de Harringworth, and Elizabeth wife of Thomas Cornwall of Burford, Oxon."

<sup>6</sup> "Documents connected with the history of Ludlow and the Lords Marchers," by the Hon. R. H. Clive, p. 271.





him his loyal and valiant Sir Thomas Newport and mentions the valour with which he and Sir Gilbert Talbot defeated 8,000 Welsh who in the 6th of Henry the 4th had rebelled in Glamorganshire." This is a mistake. The letter referred to is dated from Hereford 11 March 1405, and the names of the persons thus honourably mentioned are "my very dear cousin the Lord Talbot" and "your faithful and gallant knights *William* Newport and John Greindre."<sup>1</sup> Sir William Newport's name occurs frequently in the Plea Rolls of the reign of Henry IV in connection with land at Lichfield, Rushall, Curburgh, Sharnford, Gildenmorton and elsewhere, but there is nothing there to connect him with the Newports of Ercall. He appears to have been a member of a family which had for many years been settled at Lichfield, and of which more than one member served at the battle of Crecy in 1346,<sup>2</sup> and he married before 1405 Margaret the widow of John de Grendon of Cublesdon: he was Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1401, 1404-5 and 1406-7: he was living in 1415, but dead in 1417.<sup>3</sup>

Of Thomas Newport we find no mention in the Newport Evidences after 1440-1, the next lord of Ercall there mentioned being William Newport, doubtless his son, who in 28 Hen. VI (1449-50), as William Newport de Ercall Squyer, has a receipt for 4 marks from John Bonewurth citizen and skinner of London.<sup>4</sup> In 33 Hen. VI (1454-5) he demises land at Ercall,<sup>5</sup> and in 1463 he has a receipt from John Eyton Prior of Womburgh for . . . marks 3s. 4d. due within the lordship of Ercall.<sup>6</sup>

In 4 Ed. IV (1464-5) William Newport Esq. lord of Longford near Newport demises to Richard Wright the site of his manor of Longford with all his lands etc. there at the rent of 6 marks, the lessee to perform the office of bailiff of the manor and to collect the rents,<sup>7</sup> and seven years later he demises the site of the same manor to John Cotes at the same rent.<sup>8</sup> He was Sheriff of Shropshire 13 Ed. IV (1473),<sup>9</sup> and his name occurs several times among

<sup>1</sup> Halliwell's Letters of the Kings of England, Vol. I, p. 69; Tyler's Memoirs of Henry of Monmouth, Vol. 1, p. 203.

<sup>2</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVIII, Part 2, pp. 226, 237, 246.

<sup>3</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XI, pp. 219, 227; Vol. XIV, Part 1, p. 240; Vol. XV, pp. 93, 95, 106, 112, 123; Vol. XVI, pp. 47, 49, 64, 79, 81; Vol. XVII, pp. 31, 54, 72; Dugdale's Mon. Angl., Vol. VI, pp. 1101-2; Shaw's Staffordshire, Vol. I, p. 122, and App., pp. xxxiii, xxxv; Inq. 4 Hen. V, No. 27.

<sup>4</sup> Newport Ey.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Blakeway's Sheriffs of Shropshire, pp. 16, 76.



*Crest.*—A unicorn's head erased *arg.*, armed and ducally gorged *or.*

Robert Goch, land in Edgebaldham 1203.

Ralph de Newport, occ. c. 1225, of Cotes 1254.

Richard de Newport, burgess of Stafford, grantee of land in Cotes in le Morfeld, s. d.

Newport, Kt., lord of Ercall, in 1625, knighted 2 June 1613, of Shrewsbury 151-4, and of Ercall 154-84. He died 14 Oct. 1642, d. at Ercall in France 5 Feb. 1650 *con. et.*

Andrew Newport, bapt. at Ercall 30 Nov. 1622, com. of Francis, 4th Earl of Bedford, and Car. II, M.P. for Shrewsbury 1689-1698, d. 30 Nov. 11 Sept. 1699, bur. at Wroxeter (M). Will dated 25 March 1696, proved 14 Nov. 1699.

Henry Newport, d. s. p., bur. at Wroxeter 8 March 1627-8. Thomas Newport, bur. at Ercall 23 Dec. 1680. Christian, d. inf. Beatrice, bapt. at Wroxeter 19 March 1614-5, m. there 10 Jan. 1627-8. Sir Henry Bromley, Kt., of Shrawburine co. Salep; living 1660.

Mary, b. only 1592, m. Sir Robert Harley, Kt. of Brampton; 11 living 1621. Margaret, m. John Barker, Esq. of Hauchmond co. Salep, d. 12 March 1618-9 aged 33, bur. at Wroxeter 16 March 1618-9 (M). Anne, bapt. at High Ercall 31 Jan. 1597, bur. there 29 Dec. 1623. Christian, bapt. at High Ercall 25 Sept. 1627, m. Rt. Hon. Henry Powel, of Wiltshire, 1650, proved 1705-6. (Shaker of House of Commons, Master of the Rolls 1689-93; d. 28 July 1672, bur. at Quenington co. Gloucester.

Newport, 2nd = Mary, dau. and coh. of Francis Newport, d. m. 3 Sir Thomas Widdrham, Bart., of Wiltshire, by his wife Elizabeth, dau. and heir of Edward Barton, Esq., of Weston-under-Lizard co. Staffs., m. at Weston 20 April 1681, d. at High Ercall 3 Dec. 1737. Will dated 15 Feb. 1737 (heirress of Weston). 21, proved 15 Dec. 1737.

Francis Newport, port, d. m. 5 Wm. Abney 25 Nov. 1692. Thomas Newport, port, d. m. 5 Wm. Abney 25 Nov. 1692. Francis Newport, port, b. at Ercall 29 July 1689, d. 9 March 1696, bur. at Wroxeter (M).

Andrew Newport, port, d. inf. 9 Sept. 1653. Two other sons, died young. Thomas Newport, b. circ. 1655, created Lord Torrington, m. (1) Lady, dau. of Sir Edw. Athyns, L.C.J. of Common Pleas, (2) Penelope, dau. of Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Bart., of Iddley co. Chester, and (3) Anne, dau. of Robert Pierpont, Esq., of Nottingham; d. s. p. 27 May 1719, bur. at Weston 12 June 1719 (M).

Elizabeth, b. at Ercall 10 May 1719, m. Sir John Knollys, Bart., of Wiltshire, 1718, James Coates, Esq. of Worcester, (by whom she had an only son, Charles James, who d. young), d. 11 June 1732, bur. at Weston (M). Elizabeth, b. at Ercall 10 May 1719, m. Sir John Knollys, Bart., of Wiltshire, 1718, James Coates, Esq. of Worcester, (by whom she had an only son, Charles James, who d. young), d. 11 June 1732, bur. at Weston (M).

Newport, 3rd = Richard Newport, port, b. at Ercall 23 July 1685, d. s. p. 3 Dec. 1716, bur. at Wroxeter 6 Dec. 1716 (M). Richard Newport, port, b. at Ercall 23 July 1685, d. s. p. 3 Dec. 1716, bur. at Wroxeter 6 Dec. 1716 (M). Thomas Newport, 4th Earl of Bradford, b. 14 March 1686-7, d. s. p. m. 18 Ap. 1762, bur. at Weston; from his youth.

William Newport, b. at Ercall 2 Ap. 1666, d. 4 Dec. 1711, bur. at Wroxeter 6 Dec. 1711 (M). Mary, b. at Ercall 17 Feb. 1681-2, d. m. 1718 James Coates, Esq. of Worcester, (by whom she had an only son, Charles James, who d. young), d. 11 June 1732, bur. at Weston (M).

Elizabeth, b. at Ercall 10 May 1719, m. Sir John Knollys, Bart., of Wiltshire, 1718, James Coates, Esq. of Worcester, (by whom she had an only son, Charles James, who d. young), d. 11 June 1732, bur. at Weston (M).

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BRIDGEMAN, Earls of Bradford, Lizard co. Staffs. and Castle Bromwich co. Warwick co.











the Newport evidences during the same reign, a receipt being taken by him in 22 Ed. IV (1482-3) in conjunction with Richard Newport his son and heir from Maurice Gough late of Grafton co. Salop.<sup>1</sup> On 4 Sept. 1 Ric. III (1483) he has a bond for £200 from Humfrey Whitgreve of Burton near Stafford conditioned to abide by the award of Henry Duke of Buckingham concerning his title to the manor of Longford;<sup>2</sup> and the last we hear of him is in 3 Hen. VII (1487-8), when he takes a receipt from Elizabeth Whord or Horde, Prioress of the White Nuns of Brewood.<sup>3</sup>

William Newport married Elizabeth eldest daughter and (in her issue) coheir of Sir John Burgh, knight, lord of Mawddwy (son of Sir Hugh de Burgh, Treasurer of Ireland, and Elizabeth only surviving child and heir of John de la Pole lord of Mawddwy, whose father was descended from Griffith ap Gwenwynwyn, the last native Prince of Powys Gwenwynwyn, and whose mother was sister and one of the coheirs of Owen ap Thomas, lord of Trefgam, Iscoed and a portion of Gwynmionith, the lineal representative of Griffith ap Res ap Griffith ap Res ap Tudor Mawr, Prince of South Wales) by his wife Joan daughter and coheir of Sir William Clopton, knight, of Radbroke co. Gloucester.

Sir John Burgh was a person of great magnificence, and, living at the time when Henry VI exercised a precarious authority over France, he in common with other eminent Englishmen intituled himself after a seigniory in Normandy. His seal is circumscribed *S. I. Burgh Sr d. Olonde p<sup>r</sup>. le chastel de Chirbourgh* (the seal of John Burgh lord of Olonde, near the castle of Chirbourgh).<sup>4</sup> His seal, appended to a deed relating to the Priory of Allerbury dated 21 March 1461, has thereon a lion rampant within a border indented with the legend "*S. Johannis Burgh.*" These were the arms of his mother's family, the lords of Mawddwy. The arms of Burgh of Mawddwy, as they have always been quartered by his descendants, are *az.*, a chevron between 3 fleurs de lys *erm.*<sup>5</sup> Sir John Burgh was five times Sheriff of Shropshire, namely in 1442 before he was made a knight, and again as a knight in 1449, 1453, 1463 and 1464.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Newport Ev.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Blakeway's Sheriffs of Shropshire, p. 70.

<sup>5</sup> These are almost the same as the arms of Burgh of Gainsborough, having only the addition of a chevron as a mark of difference.

<sup>6</sup> Blakeway's Sheriffs of Shropshire, pp. 15, 16, 70.



Elizabeth Newport predeceased her father Sir John Burgh, who died in 1471, and at the Salop inquisition taken on the death of the latter it was found that he died on Saturday the eve of the Pentecost (1 June) 1471, and that John Newport, son and heir of Elizabeth, one of his daughters and heirs, was of the full age of 21 years and more at the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary last past.<sup>1</sup> By this marriage the Newport family acquired the manor of Trefgarn Owen co. Pembroke, and many other estates situate in the counties of Pembroke, Cardigan, Carmarthen, Salop, Warwick, and Worcester.

Some time between the years 1487-8 and 1490-1 William Newport died, and he seems to have been succeeded by his son John Newport, who in 6 Hen. VII (1490-1) as John Newport Esq. took a receipt from Elizabeth Whorde, Prioress of the White Nuns of Brewood.<sup>2</sup> In 15 Hen. VII (1500) John Newport of Arkall Magna Esq. has a receipt from Lady Anne Newport widow for £5 in full payment of an annuity.<sup>3</sup> This lady was probably either the widow (*i.e.* third wife) of his father William Newport or else the widow of his elder brother, or rather half-brother, Richard.

On 3 March of the same year (1500) John Newport demises to William Grey, yeoman of the Crown, a pasture called Clopton in co. Gloucester for 21 years at a rent of £7 10s. 0*d.* and a fine at incoming of 40s., and it is provided that "if Newport go to partition before 7 years he shall pay Grey 40s. again, and if Clopton fall to him by partition Grey shall have it afor any man doying as another will do."<sup>4</sup>

In 1501 a partition was made of the estates of Sir John Burgh and his wife Jane (Clopton) between their four coheirs, viz. (1) John Newport the son of one of the daughters Elizabeth who had died before her father, (2) Thomas Leighton the son of John Leighton and Ankaret his wife, another of the daughters who had also predeceased him, (3) Isabella the wife of Sir John Lyngen of Lyngen co. Hereford, knight, the third daughter, and (4) Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Mytton Esq. of Shrewsbury, the fourth daughter, or rather her husband and son William Mytton, for she

<sup>1</sup> Inq. 11 Ed. IV, No. 61.

<sup>2</sup> Newport Ev. William Newport had an elder son, Richard, living in 1482-3 (*ante*, p. 169), but he probably died without issue in his father's lifetime, or at any rate before 1490-1. Inasmuch as John Newport was found to be one of the coheirs of his grandfather Sir John Burgh in 1472, Richard must have been the issue of William Newport by a previous marriage.

<sup>3</sup> Newport Ev.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*



herself had died before the partition was made. This partition was carried into effect by an indenture dated 12 May 1501, the contents of which are preserved in the Hengwrt MSS.; and from this it appears that the estates allotted to John Newport consisted of "the lordships and manors of Tregarn Owen w<sup>th</sup> the members and advowsons of the churches ther in South Wales, Hem, Hynton, burgages howses and gardens in the towne of Shirewsberye, the mylle of Brockton, the fourth parte of Walton w<sup>th</sup>in the countie of Salopp, lands and hereditaments in Tregarn Owen, Hem, Hynton, Sherosberye, Brockton, and the fourth parte of the lands and hereditaments in Walton aforesaid" as his portion of Sir John Burgh's estates, and "the lordships and manors of Byckemershe in the countie of Warr', Crome Symond, Boughton, Kyrreswell, and Crome Abitot w<sup>th</sup>in the countie of Worcestre, and the lauds and hereditaments in Biekemshe, Crome Symond, Boughton, Kyrreswall, and Crome Abitot" as his portion of his grandmother's inheritance.<sup>1</sup>

On 20 May 23 Hen. VII (1508) John Newport as lord of Travegarie [Trefgarn Owen] demises to David ap Owen of Lloghmehler Esq. a mill called "Travegarie is mille," the witnesses to this lease being Thomas Leighton, knight, John Lyngen, knight, and William Mitton, Esq.<sup>2</sup> (*i.e.* the coparceners with John Newport of the estates of Sir John Burgh and his wife).

John Newport was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1491, 1501 and 1511.<sup>3</sup> In the MS. account of the Newport Family already alluded to it is said that he "brought a considerable body of troops to the assistance of Henry the 7th in the 2d. year of his reign against Lambert Simmel the pretender to the Crown of England, the Earl of Lincoln and their followers, and did remarkable service at the battle of Stoke, fought on the 16th of June, in which the victory fell to the King, and the Earl was killed." This John Newport married Alice, daughter of Sir Thomas Swynerton, knight, and died in October 1512. By his will, dated 14 Sept. 1512 and proved 3 July 1515, he appointed his wife Alys and his son and heir Thomas as his executors, and gave directions for his burial "in the chauncell of the Church of Hie

<sup>1</sup> Hengwrt MSS., No. cxix. This transcript is said to be taken "out of a coppie w<sup>ch</sup> John Brooke, recorder of Mowthoy, wrot out of the original."

<sup>2</sup> Newport Ev.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, and Blakeway's Sheriffs of Shropshire, pp. 17, 18.





Ercall": mention is also made of three younger sons, John, William and Richard, and two daughters, Jane and Elyanor.<sup>1</sup>

There were at least three inquisitions taken on his death, of which two only, viz. those for the counties of Salop and Warwick, are now extant at the Record Office, while notes of a third taken at Harford [Haverford West, co. Pembroke] are preserved in Blakeway's transcripts of the Newport Evidences. The first was taken at Salop 3 Nov. 4 Hen. VIII (1512), and the jurors found that he was seised at the time of his death of the manor of Ercalaw Magna [or High Ercall] of the annual value of £20 held of Thomas Earl of Arundell, the vill of Le Heme [or Hem] of the annual value of 40s. held of George Earl of Salop, and 12 burgages in Newport held of John Audeley Esq., and two other lands in the county of Salop, that he died 1 Oct. 1512, and that Thomas Newport was his son and next heir then aged 21 years and more.<sup>2</sup> The second was taken at Alcester co. Warwick [Alcester, now co. Worcester] 26 April 6 Hen. VIII (1514), and the jurors found that he was seised of a pasture called Bykmersche containing 200 acres of pasture and 20 acres of meadow, held of Sir William Compton, knight, as of the castle of Elmley and of the annual value of 20 marks, that he died 4 Oct. 1512, and that Thomas Newport was his son and next heir aged 22 and more.<sup>3</sup> The third inquisition was taken at Harford 12 April 4 Hen. VIII (1513): John Newport is described as John Newporte Esq., lord of Trefgarie Owen in the lordship of Harford; the date of his death is given as 31 Oct. 1512, and the age of his son and heir as 24 and more.<sup>4</sup> No doubt there would also be an inquisition taken for the county of Worcester, but no record of this now exists. It is remarkable that no mention is made in the Shropshire inquisition of the lands at Hynton, Shrewsbury, and Brockton, and the fourth part of Walton, all of which came to him under the partition deed of 1501 and remained afterwards in the possession of the family: probably they had been included in some settlement.

Thomas Newport, who succeeded on the death of his father, is described as Thomas Newport of Ercall Esquier in a lease dated 12 Aug. 14 Hen. VIII (1522), whereby he demises to Roger

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 8 Holder.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. 4 Hen. VIII, No. 198

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 6 Hen. VIII, No. 55.

<sup>4</sup> Newport Ev.



Salter, Warden of the College of Newport, William Hatton, William Golyng, prysts, bretherne of the same place, Francis Yong, Master of the Gyld, and Rye, Powtrel, Stuart [steward] of our ladyes lands there, a void place in Newport, extending from the hye strete unto a ryv' ryūyng yn to the pole of Newport, for a term of 80 years at the rent of 2s., the witnesses being William Newport, Jhon Newport and others.<sup>1</sup> His name appears again as Thomas Newport of hey Erecall Esq., with that of Richard Newport his son and heir apparent and another, in a bond dated 22 Nov. 30 Hen. VIII (1538) to Thomas Butler, Abbot of the Monastery of SS. Peter and Paul, to secure quiet possession by the Abbot of the tithes of Walton, Ashaston, and Cotwall, in the parish of High Erecall.<sup>2</sup> And on 17 Oct. 36 Hen. VIII (1544) he takes a lease from Roger Salter of Newport, clerk, of the benefice of fre chappel of Roden.<sup>3</sup>

Thomas Newport served as High Sheriff of Shropshire in 34 Hen. VIII (1542-3) and in 4 Ed. VI (1550).<sup>4</sup> He married Anne or Agnes, daughter of Sir Robert Corbet of Moreton Corbet, knight, by whom he had a numerous family. In his will, dated 24 July 2 Ed. VI (1548) and proved nearly three years later 6 June 1551, of which he appointed his mother in law Dame Elizabeth Corbet, his brother in law Reginald Corbet (afterwards one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas), and his son Robert Newport his executors, he mentions five younger sons and three daughters, viz. Robert, Reginald, Thomas, Edmund and Andrew, and Ursula, Katheryn and Elizabeth.<sup>5</sup> He had also an eldest son, Richard, and another younger son, Hugh, not mentioned in their father's will. Of these younger sons Robert Newport, who had been named as one of the executors, died before his father; he has been sometimes identified with the Robert Newport of Rushock co. Worcester, who married Margaret daughter and coheir of Sir Gilbert Talbot of Grafton, knight, and had issue two sons Geoffrey and Philip and a daughter Elizabeth, and whose wife appears to have brought him lands in Worcestershire, Warwickshire, and Norfolk, but the evidence in favour of this identification is far from satisfactory.<sup>6</sup> Reginald Newport, of Sylton co. Salop,

<sup>1</sup> Newport Ev.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Blakeway's Sheriffs of Shropshire, pp. 18, 19.

<sup>5</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 15 Bucke.

<sup>6</sup> Blomefield's Norfolk, Vol. V, pp. 1218, 1221, 1553; Collins' Peerage, Vol. III, pp. 33, 34; Nash's Worcestershire, Vol. II, App. p. 89.



where he held a leasehold farm, married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Bannaster and widow of one Perott: in some pedigrees he is stated to have had a son Thomas and a daughter Mary, but if so they probably both predeceased their father, for in his will, dated 26 Sept. 1561 and proved 12 Nov. 1561, though he mentions by name several step-children, he mentions no children of his own, and he gives the lease of his farm at Sybton to his brother Edmund.<sup>1</sup> Thomas Newport was living at Stoke on Tyerne co. Salop in January 1571: he may possibly be identical with the person of that name who was steward of the household to Walter first Earl and Robert second Earl of Essex and died 30 June 1587, and to whose memory his friend Richard Bagot put up a memorial brass in Stow Church co. Staffs.;<sup>2</sup> it is more probable however that it was this Thomas Newport who was buried at High Erhall on 15 Oct. 1599,<sup>3</sup> and from whom were descended a branch of the Newport family settled at Walton in that parish. Edmund Newport was living at Sybton in 1571<sup>4</sup>: in his will, dated 14 Dec. 1600 and proved 11 July 1601, he mentions his kinsman Henrie Newporte the elder [probably his nephew] and his godson Henrie Newporte [probably his great nephew] but no nearer relatives, and his kinsman John Packington is made his residuary legatee and one of his executors.<sup>5</sup> Of Andrew Newport nothing further is known beyond the fact that he was alive in 1561, the date of his brother Reginald's will. Hugh Newport, the only remaining younger son of Thomas Newport of High Erhall of whom we can certainly speak, was living in 1561 and 1570, being mentioned in the wills of his two brothers Reginald and Sir Richard.<sup>6</sup> There was a Hugh Newport of the parish of Corsham co. Wilts who died in 1587 leaving his wife Jone his sole executrix and residuary legatee,<sup>7</sup> and a Henry Newport of Corsham who died apparently without issue in 1637<sup>8</sup>; it is not unlikely that these were the same persons as Hugh the brother and Henry the godson [*qu.* also great nephew] of Edmund Newport of Sybton. The names of other younger sons of Thomas Newport of High Erhall are given

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 34 Loftes.

<sup>2</sup> Erdeswick's Staffordshire, Harwood's ed., p. 59.

<sup>3</sup> High Erhall Par. Reg.

<sup>4</sup> Inq. 13 Eliz., Part 2, No. 38.

<sup>5</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 50 Woodhall.

<sup>6</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 34 Loftes and 39 Holney.

<sup>7</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 26 Spencer.

<sup>8</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 129 Goare.





in Collins' Peerage, viz. George, William and Edward, but no trace of any of them is to be found in the wills of any members of the family, and the Edward Newport of Hanley Williams co. Worcester who died in 1619<sup>1</sup> was of another family altogether, being related to John Newport of Welton co. Northants, and consequently descended from the Newports of Pelham Furneaux co. Herts.<sup>2</sup> Of the daughters Ursula married Thomas Adams of Longnor co. Salop, Katherine married (in 1563) John Leighton of Leighton in the same county, and Elizabeth married John Paekington of Chadesley Corbet co. Worcester.

On the death of Thomas Newport of High Ercall in or about the year 1551 he was succeeded by his eldest son Richard, afterwards Sir Richard Newport, knight, who served as Sheriff of Shropshire for the years 5 Ed. VI (1551), 4 and 5 Ph. and M. (1557-8), and 11 Eliz. (1568-9).<sup>3</sup> He was a member of the Council in the Marches of Wales, and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth. Large additions were made to the family estates by his marriage with Margaret, only daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Bromley, knight, Lord Chief Justice of England in the 1st year of Queen Mary and one of the executors of King Henry VIII. By this marriage the Newports acquired the manor of Eytton upon Severn near Wroxeter and many other estates in the county of Salop. The issue of this marriage were, besides two children who died young, two sons, viz.: 1. Francis, born February 1557, who succeeded his father; and 2. Andrew, born July 1562, a barrister at law of the Inner Temple and M.P. for Salop 1588, who died unmarried and was buried at Wroxeter 5 April 1611;<sup>4</sup> and four daughters, viz.: 1. Mary, married first to William Gatewood of Adderley and Stoke upon Tern co. Salop Esq., Sheriff of Shropshire 1572 and 1581,<sup>5</sup> and secondly to Ralph Sneyd of Keel and Bradwell co. Staffs. Esq.; 2. Isabel, married to Sir Charles Fox of Bromfield co. Salop, knight; 3. Elizabeth, married first to Francis Lawley of Spoonhill co. Salop Esq. (from whom the present Lord Wenlock is descended), and secondly to Sir Thomas Lawley of Wenlock co. Salop, knight; and 4. Magdalen, married first to Richard Herbert of Blackhall and Montgomery

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 75 Parker.

<sup>2</sup> Baker's Northamptonshire, Vol. I, p. 459; Cussans' Hertfordshire, Vol. I, (Hundred of Edwinstree), p. 148.

<sup>3</sup> Blakeway's Sheriffs of Shropshire, pp. 19, 88.

<sup>4</sup> Monument in Wroxeter Church.

<sup>5</sup> Blakeway's Sheriffs of Shropshire, pp. 17, 18, 91.



Esq. (by whom she was mother of Edward, the famous Lord Herbert of Cherbury, and of George Herbert, the celebrated divine, and several other children), and secondly to Sir John Danvers, knight, one of the Judges in the reign of King Charles I and brother and heir of Henry Earl of Danby.<sup>1</sup>

Sir Richard Newport died 12 September 1570, and was buried at Wroxeter, where there is a handsome marble tomb erected to his memory and that of his wife, surmounted by their recumbent figures and surrounded by effigies of their children. The arms on the monument are quarterly of eight (1. Newport, 2. Grey, 3. Ercall, 4. de Burgh, 5. Mawddwy, 6. Corbet, 7. Clopton, 8. Beysin), impaling Bromley. On a plate let into the wall above is this inscription:

"Hic equitis tumulus [domini] tegit ossa richardi  
Newporti portu navigat ille novo.  
Navigat ille novo superum iam sede receptus  
Testis erat locuples anchora tuta fides."

His will, dated 11 September 1570, was proved by his widow 12 October 1571.<sup>2</sup> The inquisition on his death was taken at Salop 9 January 1571,<sup>3</sup> from which it appears that in addition to the lands which he inherited he died seised of lands in Salop and Rodynton co. Salop, which he had purchased from Edward Legge and Ellen his wife and Edward Flemmyng and Margaret his wife in 1555, and of the manor of Cressage and lands in the parish of Counde co. Salop, which he had purchased from Sir John Lyttleton of Franckley co. Worcester, knight, and Bridget his wife in 1558, and that his son and heir was then aged 13 years 11 months 2 weeks and 3 days. His widow survived her husband many years and died in August 1598. "This year" says a manuscript Chronicle of Shrewsbury transcribed by the Rev. W. A. Leighton<sup>4</sup> and quoted by Blakeway<sup>5</sup> (under the year 1598) "Lady Margaret Newport, of Eytoon and in the county of Salop, wydowe, dep'tid this present lyfe the xjth daye of August A<sup>o</sup> p'd and was buried at Rocksetter the next day followinge being her will so and the xxjth day of August all the bells in Shrusburry dyd ringe in remembrance of hyr the whiche towne she lovyd well, and she was

<sup>1</sup> There is a portrait of this lady at Weston by Zuchero, on which is the inscription "Richard Herbert of Blackhall's wife being daughter to Newport of Arcole."

<sup>2</sup> Reg. Perog. Cant., 39 Holney.

<sup>3</sup> Inq. 13 Eliz., No. 38.

<sup>4</sup> Transactions of Shropshire Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc., Vol. III, p. 269.

<sup>5</sup> Blakeway's Sheriffs of Shropshire, p. 88.



belovyd of the inhabytants therein there was bestowyde uppon the poore that day xx/i besyds many other plaes in the countrey verey amply. She was a verteous lady in all hyr lyfe tyme and verey good to the poore in towne and countrey."

Her will, dated 20 March 1592-3, was proved by her eldest son 14 February 1598-9.<sup>1</sup> In the inquisition on her death, taken at Salop 10 January 1599, the date of her death is given as 19 August 1598.<sup>2</sup> This inquisition gives a full list of her estates, which (stated briefly) comprised the manors of Eyton *juxta* Wroxeter, Uppyington, Oxenbould, Fennymer and Lynches, with their respective members, and messuages and lands at Corve, Okes Hem, Besford, Colneham and Salop, all in the county of Salop, and also lands at Brierley, co. Staffs., and at Wych Malbane and Acton Parva, co. Chester.<sup>3</sup>

Francis Newport Esq., afterwards Sir Francis, who succeeded on the death of his father in 1570, served the office of Sheriff of Shropshire for the years 1586 and 1601,<sup>4</sup> under which year the manuscript Chronicle above quoted styles him "a woorthy and a valiant man, one of his Majesties leftenaunts and justis of Pees." He was knighted by King James I at Worksop Manor co. Notts. on 21 April 1603.<sup>5</sup> He rebuilt the Old Hall at High Ercall in the year 1608, as witnessed by a Latin inscription still on the building.<sup>6</sup>

Sir Francis Newport married Beatrix, daughter of Rowland Lacon, of Willey and Kinlet, Esq., and the issue of this marriage were three sons and four daughters, viz. 1. Richard, afterwards created Lord Newport of High Ercall; 2. Henry, who died without issue, and was buried at Wroxeter 13 March 1627-87; 3. Thomas, who was living in 1621 (the date of his father's will), and was probably the same as the Thomas Newport buried at Comd 28 December 1650<sup>8</sup>; and 1. Mary, wife of Sir Robert Harley of Brampton, knight; 2. Margaret, married to John

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 16 Kidd.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. 41 Eliz., Part 1, No. 7.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Blakeway's Sheriffs of Shropshire, pp. 20, 95.

<sup>5</sup> Nichols' Progresses of James I, Vol. I, p. 88.

<sup>6</sup> It was afterwards garrisoned for King Charles I, and sustained a siege and severe assault: it is now occupied as a farmhouse. There is a drawing of the remains of the house made by D. Parkes in 1809 in Add. MS. 21180, fo. 17 (preserved at the British Museum).

<sup>7</sup> Wroxeter Par. Reg.

<sup>8</sup> Comd Par. Reg.





Barker of Haughmond co. Salop Esq.<sup>1</sup>; 3. Anne, who was baptized at High Ercall 31 January 1597,<sup>2</sup> was living and unmarried at the date of her father's will in 1621, and was doubtless the person of that name buried at High Ercall 29 December 1623<sup>3</sup>; and 4. Eleanor, who died young. Sir Francis's will is dated 18 February 1621, and was proved 19 May 1623.<sup>4</sup> He died 15 March 1623, and the inquisition on his death was taken at Salop on the 28th of July following.<sup>5</sup> His wife died before him, and was buried at Wroxeter 9 March 1616-7.<sup>6</sup> The lands mentioned in the inquisition taken on the death of Sir Francis Newport included, in addition to those which are known to have descended to him from his father or his mother, the tithes of lands in Aston in the parish of Wellington and of the vill and fields of Alscot, the rectory impropriate with the tithes and glebe land and the advowson of the vicarage of Wroxeter, the rectory impropriate with the tithes and glebe land of Uppington, and the tithes of Uckington in the parish of Ateham, all in the county of Salop, a moiety of the manor of Dowles and of messuages and lands and common of pasture in Dowles and in the Forest of Wyre, also the manors of Harley and Kenley and lands there and in Gouldinge, Huly, and Shaynton, the manor of Okes, the farm of Eee [Eye] in the parish of Leighton, and lands in Eyton *justa* Baschurch, in the county of Salop, lands in Sedgley co. Staffs., and the manor or lordship of Deythur co. Montgomery.<sup>7</sup>

His eldest son, Sir Richard Newport, was 34 years of age at the time of his father's death,<sup>8</sup> having been previously knighted by King James I at Theobalds 2 June 1615.<sup>9</sup> He represented Shrewsbury in the Parliament summoned to meet in January 1620-1; and in the two following Parliaments which met in February 1623-4 and May 1625, as also in that which met in March 1627-8, he sat as one of the knights of the shire for the

<sup>1</sup> Lord Herbert of Cherbury mentions her as one of the ladies in whose cause he felt bound to challenge a man to fight. "One," says he, speaking of his challenges, "was in defence of my cozen Sir Francis Newport's daughter, who was married to John Barker of Ifamon, whose younger brother and heir . . . sent him a challenge, which to this day he never answered, and would have beaten him afterwards, but that I was hindered by my uncle Sir Francis Newport." The part omitted is wanting in the original (Life of Edward Lord Herbert of Cherbury, ed. 1770, pp. 60, 61).

<sup>2</sup> High Ercall Par. Reg.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 48 Swan.

<sup>5</sup> Inq. 21 Jac. I, No. 146.

<sup>6</sup> Wroxeter Par. Reg.

<sup>7</sup> Inq. 21 Jac. I, No. 146.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Nichols' Progresses of King James I, Vol. III, p. 92.



county of Salop.<sup>1</sup> He was Sheriff of Shropshire for the year 1628<sup>2</sup>; and in October 1642 he was raised to the peerage by the title of Baron Newport of High Ercall.

Lord Clarendon speaks of him as "a gentleman of very good extraction, and of the best estate of any gentleman of that county, one Sir Richard Newport, who lived within four or five miles of Shrewsbury, and who was looked upon as a very prudent man, and had a very powerful influence upon that people, and was of undoubted affections and loyalty to the King, and to the Government both in Church and State": and adds that "his eldest son, Francis Newport, was a young gentleman of great expectation and of excellent parts, a member of the House of Commons who had behaved himself there very well."<sup>3</sup> Being steadfastly attached to his royal master King Charles I, Lord Newport was a heavy sufferer for his loyalty; he was himself fined in the sum of £3287 6s. 8d., and his son in the sum of £5284; he was also condemned to pay an annual sum of £170 to the parochial clergy. Indeed so much were the rebels exasperated at his zeal for the royal cause that in 1644 they had ordered his estate to be sold outright. Being then full of years he was compelled to seek for repose in foreign exile, and retiring to France he ended his days at Moulins, in the Bourbonnois, on 5 February 1650, in the eightieth year of his age.<sup>4</sup>

He married Rachel the daughter of Sir John Leveson of Haling co. Kent, knight, and sister of Sir Richard Leveson of Trentham co. Stafford, Knight of the Bath; by whom he had issue two sons and seven daughters. The sons were: 1. Francis, his successor, afterwards Earl of Bradford, who was born on 23 February, and baptized at Wroxeter on 12 March 1619;<sup>5</sup> 2. Andrew, baptized at High Ercall 30 November 1622, who was one of the commissioners of the customs in the reign of King

<sup>1</sup> Return of Members of Parliament (printed by order of the House of Commons in 1878), Part I, pp. 452, 459, 465, 477.

<sup>2</sup> Blakeway's Sheriffs of Shropshire, pp. 21, 109.

<sup>3</sup> Clarendon's Hist. of the Rebellion, folio ed., Vol. II, p. 28.

<sup>4</sup> Blakeway's Sheriffs of Shropshire, p. 110. Lord Newport had been a traveller in his youth; his cousin, Lord Herbert of Cherbury, relates in his romantic memoirs that he was induced to stop at Burgoine because "he had heard divers say, and particularly Sir John Finnet and Sir Richard Newport, that the best's daughter there was the handsomest woman that ever they saw in their lives"; and he afterwards gives a most elaborate description of her charms (Life of Edward Lord Herbert of Cherbury, ed. 1770, pp. 112, 113).

<sup>5</sup> Wroxeter Par. Reg.



Charles II, and a noted man of his time.<sup>1</sup> He was Member of Parliament for Shrewsbury in the time of William III, from 1689 to 1698; and dying unmarried in the year 1699 was buried at Wroxeter, having by will, dated 25 March 1696 and proved 14 Nov. 1699, bequeathed his manor of Deythur in Montgomeryshire and estates in the counties of Montgomery and Salop to Richard Lord Newport, the son of Francis Earl of Bradford his elder brother, and his issue.<sup>2</sup> On a flat stone in the chancel of Wroxeter Church is the following inscription to his memory:—“Here lies the body of the Honourable Andrew Newport, Esq., brother to the Right Honourable Francis Earl of Bradford, obiit 11o. Septemb. 1699 ann. atat. 76.”

The daughters of the first Lord Newport were: 1. Beatrix, baptized at Wroxeter 19 March 1614–5, and married there 10 Jan. 1627–8 to Sir Henry Bromley of Shrawardine co. Salop and of Holt Castle co. Worcester, knight, whom she survived; 2. Christian, who died in infancy;<sup>3</sup> 3. Mary, baptized at Wroxeter 8 March 1617–8, and married first, at High Ercall 18 May 1635, to John Steventon of Dothill near Wellington co. Salop Esq., and afterwards to Francis Forester of Watling Street in the same county, Esq., who was Sheriff of Shropshire for the year 1652; 4. Margaret, baptized at Wroxeter 11 April 1619, and married at High Ercall 18 Feb. 1639 to Richard Fowler of Harnage Grange co. Salop Esq.; 5. Anne, baptized at Wroxeter 21 Aug. 1621, and married at High Ercall 25 Aug. 1635 to Edward Corbet, eldest son of Sir Edward Corbet of Leighton co. Montgomery and Longnor co. Salop, knight and baronet; 6. another Christian, baptized at High Ercall 2 Oct. 1625, who died unmarried in or about the year 1705;<sup>4</sup> 7. Elizabeth, baptized at High Ercall 25 Sept. 1627, and married to the Right Hon. Henry

<sup>1</sup> Among the amusing romances of Defoe is one entitled “Memoirs of Col. Andrew Newport,” and purporting to be a production of Andrew the second son of Sir Richard Newport. There is a picture of Mr. Andrew Newport at Weston attributed to Sir Godfrey Kneller.

<sup>2</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 177 Pett. The manor or lordship of Deythur came to the Duke of Cleveland with the rest of the Newport estates, and was by him sold to W. Ormsby Gore of Porkington Esq.

<sup>3</sup> According to the Genealogical Account of the Family referred to above (p. 146) this Christian was the third daughter; but Dugdale in his *Baronage of England*, published in 1676, (p. 467) places her second; and this accords best with the dates of the births of the other children. There appears to be no record of her baptism either at Wroxeter or at High Ercall.

<sup>4</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 68 Eades.





Powle of Williamsthorpe co. Gloucester, Speaker of the House of Commons, Master of the Rolls, and Privy Councillor to Kings Charles II and William III.

Francis Newport, the eldest son, succeeded his father as second Lord Newport. He was born on 23 Feb., and baptized at Wroxeter 12 March 1619. He was elected member of Parliament for the borough of Shrewsbury on 17 March 1639-40, soon after he had attained his majority, and he sat again in the Long Parliament which met in November of the same year.<sup>1</sup> He manifested the same ardent loyalty as that which actuated his father, and ventured with rare but honourable gallantry to vote for the acquittal of Lord Strafford at a time when such votes exposed those who gave them to no small personal hazard: the populace, with their usual intolerance of sentiments differing from their own, denouncing all such, 56 in number, as Straffordians, and holding up their names to execration and insult by public placards. Mr. Francis Newport was soon expelled the House as a malignant, after which he appeared in arms against the Parliament and did great service to the Royal cause until he was overpowered and taken prisoner at Oswestry on the capture of that town by the Earl of Denbigh and Colonel Mytton on 29 June 1644. After he had obtained his liberty he still corresponded with Sir Edward Hyde, afterwards Earl of Clarendon, and when the rising in North Wales was planned in 1659 he was considered one of the most zealous and powerful friends that the King had in that neighbourhood. In this year Lord Clarendon mentions him as one of those engaged on the part of the King in an unsuccessful attempt to besiege the town of Shrewsbury, the Parliamentarians being as yet too strong for them; but the power of the Commonwealth was now fast melting away, and by the beginning of the next year we find Shrewsbury once more in the hands of the King. In the meantime the Royalists, whose ardour could be damped by no discouragements, were again making preparations for besieging the town, under the conduct of Sir Thomas Myddleton of Chirk. This aged warrior, who had begun the war as a Parliamentarian, finding monarchy indispensable to the settlement of the country, had now strenuously attached himself to the Royal cause; and he was about to receive a commission as commander-in-chief of the counties of North

<sup>1</sup> Return of Members of Parliament (printed by order of the House of Commons in 1878), Part 1, pp. 482, 492.



Wales; but he likewise aspired to the government of Shrewsbury, a pretension which rather embarrassed Sir Edward Hyde, chief minister of the exiled King, as likely to clash with the views of his friend Lord Newport.

Sir Edward seems to have thought that Sir Thomas had merited the post by his offers to contribute so much towards gaining possession of the town. It appears however by his letters<sup>1</sup> that neither the King nor himself were willing to dispose of the government to him but by the consent and approbation of Lord Newport, "in whose excellent spirit and cordial desire to promote the King's service" he felt the most entire confidence. "What is to be done," says he to his correspondent, "with reference to the proposition concerning Shrewsbury must be left to my Lord Mordaunt and the rest of the commissioners to adjust. If it were included in his" (Myddleton's) "commission, it must draw that whole county likewise under his power and command: and how that will suit with the good acceptance of my Lord Newport, and the rest of the commissioners of that countrey, is not hard to guess; and yet, no doubt, they will be glad of any sure way to take Shrewsbury, and to have so good a neighbour in North Wales as Sir Thomas Middleton: therefore there is no way to prevent all jealousies and mistakes but by bringing my Lord Newport, or Andrew Newport, and Sir Thomas Middleton together: who will easily agree, and prosecute any noble design and secure one another." And in a second letter he says: "I named my Lord Newport only as a principal person of that county, and one very much affected to the King's service, not as commander in chief; which I do not believe he will ever affect to be. He is too wise a man to keep anything in his mind of former passages" (alluding to the early disaffection of Myddleton) "that may breed a disturbance in the present service; and no body can be so fit to negotiate such an association as Andrew Newport" (Lord Newport's only brother): "and therefore I pray let my Lord Mordaunt and Mr. Rumbald dispose Andrew Newport in such a manner as you will do Sir Thomas Middleton, that they may meet together and settle the association." But before this letter was written all the arrangements for wresting Shrewsbury from the Parliament by force of arms had been rendered

<sup>1</sup> These letters, which bear date 14 Jan. 1660 and 20 Feb. of the same year, were written from Brussels to Mr. (afterwards Dean) Barwick, and were never printed (Owen and Blakeway's Hist. of Shrewsbury, Vol. 1, pp. 477, 8).



unnecessary by Monk on 11 Feb. 1660 declaring for the King. On the restoration of King Charles II Lord Newport was appointed Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of Shropshire (26 July 1660); and on 13 June 1668 he succeeded Sir Thomas Clifford as Comptroller of the Household, being sworn of the Privy Council a few weeks afterwards. In 1672 he was made Treasurer of the Household, and on 11 March 1674 he was advanced by King Charles II to the title of Viscount Newport of Bradford in the county of Salop. After the accession of King James II he continued for a time in office as Treasurer of the Household; but though he and his family had so greatly distinguished themselves in the cause of the Monarchy and proved their fidelity to the House of Stuart, yet the true welfare of his country held the first place in his heart. His conscience would not suffer him to concur in the arbitrary measures of King James when they threatened the destruction of the religious as well as the civil liberties of the nation: and he was consequently dismissed from his office in February 1686-7. Lord Newport took no pains to conceal his political feelings, and his dissatisfaction was so evident that he was removed from the Lord Lieutenancy of Shropshire, which was given to the notorious Lord Chancellor Jeffreys, the Earl of Yarmouth succeeding him as Treasurer of the Household. His connection with the Court being now at an end, he openly took the part of the Seven Bishops who had been imprisoned by the King, and appeared at their trial in June 1688 to espouse their cause; and in the year 1692 we find him mentioned as one of those excepted from pardon by the abdicated Monarch in the declaration which he published on the occasion of his intended descent upon England. On 11 May 1694 he was created Earl of Bradford by William and Mary, having been previously reinstated by them in his offices of Treasurer of the Household and Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire. Upon the accession of Queen Anne he was again sworn of the Privy Council, and continued in the Treasurership of the Household and the Lord Lieutenancy of the county of Salop, which last, when he reached the age of 84, was conferred upon his son Richard Lord Newport. The Earl of Bradford died at his house at Twickenham on 19 September 1708 in the 89th year of his age, and was buried at Wroxeter, near Eytton his seat in Shropshire, where a marble monument on the south wall of the chancel records his honours and bears testimony to his virtues. The





Family MS. before alluded to states that "at the time of his death he was the most venerable Character of any Nobleman in England on account of his Virtues and the unblemished Honor with which he had filled every Station of Life. Equally a Friend to the Clergy and the Poor, he enlarged the Endowments of several poor Vicarages and erected a charitable Foundation at Ereal for the Support of the Needy.<sup>1</sup> Though King William's Temper and Disposition did not in general admit of Intimacies with his Subjects, yet he had so great a Regard for the Earl of Bradford that he paid him a Visit and honoured him with his Presence at Dinner on his Lordship's Birth Day when he entered his 80<sup>th</sup> year."<sup>2</sup>

He married Diana, daughter of Francis Russell, 4th Earl of Bedford, and sister of William, the 1st Duke; she died on 30 January 1694 in the 74th year of her age, and was buried with her own family at Chenies in Buckinghamshire.<sup>3</sup> By her he had a numerous issue, of whom five died in infancy, and three sons and four daughters survived. The sons were: 1. Richard, who succeeded his father; 2. Francis, who died unmarried, and was buried in Westminster Abbey 25 Nov. 1692; 3. Thomas, who was one of the Commissioners of the Customs in the reigns of William and Mary and Queen Anne, and who in the 1st year of George I was made one of the Lords of the Treasury, sworn of the Privy Council, and raised to the peerage by the title of Baron Tor-

<sup>1</sup> In the Commissioners of Charities' Report (1843) we find "there is a building in High Ereal, called the Hospital, consisting of seven dwellings, each of which has a room above and a room below, and a small garden annexed thereto. The only account we have been able to obtain of the foundation of the Hospital is from a Latin inscription thereon in the following words:—'*Deo O: M: In sustentationem sex pauperum, quibus senio et labore confectis nihil aliud reliquum est quam vivere et precari, has aedes ære suo extractas et dotatas in grati animi testimonium dat, dicit, dedicat, Franciscus Comes de Bradford Anno Salutis 1694. Abi, viator, hujusce dicti memor, Quas dederis so'as semper habebis opes.*'"

<sup>2</sup> There are several portraits in existence of Francis Earl of Bradford; of those at Weston one by Sir Godfrey Kneller was painted when he was Lord Newport, and another by Dahl as a very old man; a third, now at Castle Bromwich, was taken in his 78th year.

<sup>3</sup> Francis Earl of Bradford's monument at Wroxeter. When her husband was taken prisoner in 1644 in the attempt to recapture Oswestry, she herself, with the Lady D'Aubigny and others, appears to have fallen into the hands of the Parliamentarians; for a letter is extant from the noted Hugh Peters to the Earl of Stamford soliciting the release of Lady Newport, for which great interest was employed (*viz* Catalogue of Pictures at Woburn Abbey). There are several pictures of her at Woburn, and one by Verelst at Weston.



rington of Torrington co. Devon; he was afterwards made one of the Tellers of the Exchequer, an appointment which he held till his death; he was thrice married, but left no issue; his first wife was Lucy, daughter of Sir Edward Atkyns, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in the reign of James II; his second was Penelope, daughter of Sir Orlando Bridgeman of Ridley co. Chester, Bart., who died in 1705<sup>1</sup>; and his third wife was Anne, daughter of Robert Pierrepont of Nottingham Esq., son of the Hon. Francis Pierrepont, and grandson of Robert Earl of Kingston; he died 27 May 1719 in the 65th year of his age, when his title became extinct, and lies buried at Wroxeter with Anne his third wife, who survived him many years, and died 17 Feb. 1734. Lord Torrington was a man of taste, and formed a fine collection of pictures, many of which are still preserved in the family.<sup>2</sup> He was a great benefactor to the Hospital at Preston-on-the-Wild-Moors in Shropshire, which was established under the will of Lady Herbert, his sister, for the maintenance of 12 poor women of the better class and for the education of 12 poor girls, contributing the sum of £1000 for the erection of the large hall there; the Hospital was not actually built till after his death.<sup>3</sup> The surviving daughters of Francis Earl of Bradford were: 1. Elizabeth, who was married (1st) to Sir Henry Lyttelton, of Arley and Hagley co. Worcester, Bart.; and (2ndly) to Sir Edward Harvey, of Combe co. Surrey, knight, whom she survived, and dying on 7 March 1723-4 was buried at Kingston in Surrey; she left no issue by either husband;<sup>4</sup> 2. Catherine, married to her cousin Henry, 4th and last Baron Herbert of Chisbury co. Salop, who died without issue in 1691; Lady Herbert survived

<sup>1</sup> Le Neve's *Monumenta Anglicana*. Letters of Administration to her estate granted March 1706.

<sup>2</sup> These pictures Lord Torrington bequeathed to his brother Richard Earl of Bradford, who left them to his widow Mary Countess of Bradford; Lady Bradford by her Will directed them to be divided into three shares, one third to devolve as heirlooms with Weston, another third to go to Lady Anne Bridgeman, and the remaining third to Diana Countess of Mountrath (Reg. Prerog. Cant., 268 Wake). The greater part of them are therefore still at Weston, but the rest were alienated by the Countess of Mountrath, who left them, together with certain landed estates and other interesting relics of the Newport family, away from her own son to the Daners, and they are now in the possession of the Earl of Portarlington.

<sup>3</sup> There is a portrait of Lord Torrington, and also one of Anne his third wife, in the great hall of the Hospital at Preston, presented by the late Earl of Bradford, then the acting trustee and administrator of the affairs of the Hospital.

<sup>4</sup> Nush's *Worcestershire*, Vol. I, p. 493; Manning and Bray's *Surrey*, Vol. I, p. 402.



her husband, and died 24 April 1716; she was buried at Wroxe-ter;<sup>1</sup> 3. Anne, who died unmarried; 4. Diana, who was married (1st) to Thomas Howard of Ashtead co. Surrey Esq., son of Sir Robert Howard, Knight of the Bath, and Auditor of the Exchequer; and (2ndly) to the Honourable William Fielding, younger son of William 5th Earl of Denbigh and 2nd Earl of Desmond, Groom of the Bedchamber to King George I and Clerk Comptroller of the Board of Green Cloth, whom she survived, and dying on 16 Jan. 1731 was buried at Ashtead.<sup>2</sup>

Richard Newport the eldest son, who succeeded his father as 2nd Earl of Bradford in 1708, was born on 3 September 1644. During his father's lifetime he served many years in Parliament, being first returned for the county of Salop 17 Nov. 1670 in the place of Sir Richard Oakeley, knight, deceased, and again in February 1678-9 and on several subsequent occasions in conjunction first with Sir Vincent Corbet, Bart., and afterwards with Edward Kynaston of Oteley Esq.<sup>3</sup> He was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire in 1704 on his father's retirement from that office and after the latter's death was sworn of the Privy Council 18 February 1708-9. He was also Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of Montgomeryshire,—all which honours he retained till the time of his death, which happened on 14 June 1723. He was married at Weston on 20 April 1681<sup>4</sup> to Mary, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Wilbraham of Woodhey co. Chester by his wife Elizabeth, daughter and sole heir of Edward Mytton of Weston under Lizard.<sup>5</sup> By this marriage he had six sons, who all died without issue, two of them having succeeded in turn to

<sup>1</sup> Monument at Wroxe-ter.

<sup>2</sup> Ashtead and its Howard Possessors, privately printed 1873, pp. 69-73. There is a portrait of Lady Diana Fielding at Weston by Sir Peter Lely, and another at Castle Rising in Norfolk.

<sup>3</sup> In 1701 he appears to have had a narrow escape of his life, for we find in "The New State of Europe" for 18 Oct. of that year the following notice: "Some days since, the Lord Newport, the Earl of Bradford's Son, was attacked between Lemster and Worcester, as he was going to Coventry in his Coach, by four Highwaymen, one of which was so barbarous [us] to fire a Pistol at his Lordship, without bidding the Coachman stand; but by God's Providence, the Bullet mist him, and another gentleman in the Coach. His Lordship had a considerable charge in the Coach, and also some small Arms, one of which he discharged at the Rogue, and shot him dead, and the other three made their Escape."

<sup>4</sup> Weston Par. Reg.

<sup>5</sup> There is a picture of Richard Earl of Bradford by Sir Godfrey Kneller at Weston, and also one of Mary Countess of Bradford his wife by J. M. Wright.







*J. ell Wright*

*Mary, wife of Richard,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Bradford.  
born 1661. — died 1737.*







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*Richard Newport.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Bradford.*

*born 1644. — died 1725.*



the Earldom, and four daughters. The sons were: 1. Henry, who succeeded his father as 3rd Earl; 2. Richard, who was born at Eyton 28 July 1685, died unmarried 3 December 1716, and was buried at Wroxeter; 3. Thomas, who succeeded his brother as 4th Earl; 4. Francis, and 5. Andrew, who both died in early infancy; 6. William, who was born at Eyton 2 April 1696, and died 4 December 1711. Of the daughters Mary, the eldest, was born at Weston 17 February 1681-2, died at Bath unmarried 11 July 1711, and was buried at Weston.<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth, the second, who was born at Eyton 10 May 1688, married in September 1718 James Coeks Esq. of Worcester (ancestor by his second marriage of the present Lord Somers), by whom she had an only child James, who died young 4 March 1734: she died 11 July 1732, and was buried at Weston. Anne, the third, who was born at Eyton 20 August 1690, married at St. Ann's Soho 9 April 1719 Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Bart., of Castle Bromwich co. Warwick, whose issue became eventually the sole representatives of the Newports, Earls of Bradford: she died 19 August 1752. Diana, the youngest, who was born 22 March 1698-9, married in 1721 Algernon Coote 6th Earl of Mountrath, by whom she had an only son Charles Henry, afterwards 7th and last Earl of Mountrath, born 1 April 1724; she died 14 July 1766, and her son, who never married, died 1 March 1802, and was buried at Weston.

Richard Earl of Bradford by his will, dated 15 January 1721, gave directions for his burial at Weston: he devised the manor of Oxembolis and Kelmescott farm and hereditaments in Oxembolis, Kelmescott, Monke Weston, Palton and Corve, co. Salop, the manor of Hem, Ulmer Grange, and hereditaments in Sugdon, in the parishes of Shipton, Long Stanton, Monk Hopton, Pryor's Ditton, Sterchley, Roddington and Idsall *alias* Shifnal, co. Salop, to his two sons in law, James Coeks and Orlando Bridgeman, upon trust to pay the income to his wife for life, and on her death to raise and pay £500 to his brother in law, William Fielding of Ashtead co. Surrey, and to raise two sums of £1000 and £500, which had been received by him under his father's will for the purpose of being employed in the restoration of the manor house of High Ercall, but which had not been so employed, as they were quite insufficient for the purpose, and subject thereto upon trust for his own right heirs. He made his wife Mary Countess of Bradford his residuary legatee

<sup>1</sup> There is a picture of Lady Mary Newport at Weston by Mrs. Beale.





and appointed her and his son in law James Cocks his executors.<sup>1</sup> He died 14 June 1723, and his will was proved 15 July of the same year by his widow Mary Countess of Bradford. On his death the title and the Newport estates, except what had been settled upon trust for his wife for her life, devolved upon his eldest son Henry, who now became 3rd Earl of Bradford; but the latter never succeeded to the Weston estates, for he died a few years before his mother, Mary Countess of Bradford.

Henry Newport, third Earl of Bradford, was born at Eyton 8 August 1683. In his father's lifetime he represented the county of Salop in several parliaments, and was appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county of Stafford 27 September 1715 and Custos Rotulorum 17 November of the same year: after the accession of King George II he was further appointed Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the county of Salop and also Custos Rotulorum of the county of Montgomery. Shortly after he had succeeded to the title, by deed dated 15 January 1723-4 and a fine passed in Hilary term of the same year, Henry Earl of Bradford cut off and barred, so far as he was able, all the then existing entails of the family estates, and having thus acquired the power of disposing of the vast possessions to which he had succeeded on his father's death, the inheritance of the Newports and De Burghs etc., he proceeded to alienate them from his natural heirs in favour of a mistress and a bastard son.<sup>2</sup> By his will, dated 8 May 1730, he devised all his estates to John Hill Esq., Hugh Briggs Esq. (afterwards Sir Hugh Briggs Bart.) and George Middleton, goldsmith, upon trust (after raising sufficient money to pay his debts and legacies and a sum of £10,000 to be held for such purposes as he should appoint) for the use of John Harrison an infant, some time under the care of Mrs. Elizabeth Gardiner late of Richmond and since of Turnham Green, and then under the care of Mrs. Le Place, in tail, with remainder as he should himself appoint and an ultimate remainder to his own right heirs. By a codicil or deed poll, dated a few days later, 16 May

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 138 Richmond.

<sup>2</sup> Among the estates thus willed away were the mansions of Ercall and Eyton-upon-Severn, together with the Castle of Shrewsbury (which had been granted to Francis Viscount Newport by King Charles II), and divers lands and manors, amongst which were the manors of Stottesdon, Pinhill, Ercall, Wroxeter, Uppington, Eyton, Rowton, Kenley, Harley, Oxenbold, Hem, Eaton Constantine, Garnston and Cressage, in Shropshire (which was said to produce a rental of about £45,000 *per annum* at the accession of the Earl of Darlington in 1805), and considerable estates in the counties of Stafford and Montgomery.



1730, he appointed the said sum of £10,000 to Mrs. Anne Smyth of Berkley Street, St. George's Hanover Square, who had a country house near the sign of the Red Cow, Hammersmith, for her separate use exclusive of her then present or any after taken husband; by another codicil or deed poll, also dated 16 May 1730, he appointed the reversion of his estates in default of issue of John Harrison to Mrs. Anne Smyth in fee for her separate use, and he also gave to her the rents during John Harrison's minority for her to apply such part as she should think proper for his maintenance and education; and by a further codicil, dated 17 April 1733, he postponed the vesting of the estates in John Harrison until he should attain the age of 26.<sup>1</sup> The Mrs. Anne Smyth, who benefited so largely under these dispositions, was the wife of Ralph Smyth Esq. son of William, Bishop of Raphoe. She was married to him in the year 1704 when only thirteen years of age, but had for many years been living separated from him under a separation deed dated 8 May 1711; in the year 1720 the husband was residing at a lodging in Windmill Street near Holborn, while the lady was living at the West end of London, or at Hammersmith, as Lord Bradford's mistress. John Harrison was her son, and the reputed son of Lord Bradford, who paid for his maintenance and education and left him, as we have seen, a splendid fortune. He was born in Martlet's Court, Covent Garden, on 2 February 1721.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cont., 4 Ducie.

<sup>2</sup> Many years afterwards on the death of John Harrison, or John Newport as he was then called, a question arose as to the administration of his effects and the right to his personality between the persons who would be his next of kin if he were legitimate (*i.e.* a great nephew of Ralph Smyth, or his representatives) and the Crown; and the case was tried in 1792 before Sir William Wynne at Doctors Commons. There was no proof whatever of Mrs. Ann Smyth having cohabited with her husband between 1711 and the birth of the child, except the fact that they both resided in London, and it was proved that on 16 July 1720 Ralph Smyth executed a deed by which he confirmed the former separation deed and gave his wife a power to dispose of her property as if she were a *femme sole*. There was however some evidence of access subsequent to the year 1727, six years after the birth of the child, which in the opinion of Sir William Wynne corroborated the presumption of access before that time. Notwithstanding the non-recognition by the husband, who would have had a strong pecuniary interest in establishing the child's legitimacy, and the clearest evidence that Mrs. Smyth was living with Lord Bradford as his mistress and that the child was treated by Lord Bradford as his own, Sir William Wynne came to the conclusion "that access must be presumed in the absence of proof to the contrary; and that, from the proofs in the cause, the mother of Mr. Newport must be presumed to have had access to her husband at the time she became pregnant: consequently the child must be legitimate." Thus the



Henry Earl of Bradford died unmarried at his house in St. James' Place on 23 December 1734, and was buried on 20 January following in King Henry VII's Chapel in Westminster Abbey.<sup>1</sup> His will and codicils were proved on 21 January 1734-5.<sup>2</sup>

It is not to be wondered at that this extraordinary will gave rise to litigation, but nevertheless it was established by a decree in Chancery dated 17 November 1739. About the same time an Act of Parliament was passed to enable John Harrison to take the name of Newport. His intellect however had for some time been getting more and more feeble, and the next year a commission of lunacy was issued against him, under which he was pronounced a lunatic: though he lived for many years afterwards, he was always an imbecile.<sup>3</sup> On 19 June 1742 Mrs. Anne Smyth made her will, of which she appointed the Right Honourable William Pulteney, afterwards Earl of Bath, George Wilson of Symond's Inn, gent., and Alexander Small of York Buildings, St. Martin in the Fields, surgeon, executors. She bequeathed to her brother Thomas Smyth<sup>4</sup> £3,000, to Mary wife of Charles Smyth £50, to several friends and servants sums varying between £10 and £200, and to the two firstnamed executors £500 each. To Alexander Small she gave £12,000, and made him her residuary legatee, as well as giving him the whole income of the estates subject to an allowance for the maintenance and education

husband's relatives established their claim as next of kin to the personal estate (see a summary of the facts and a full report of Sir William Wynne's judgment in the case of *Smyth v. Chamberleyne*, given in the Appendix C to the Gardner Peerage Case, by Le Marchant, pp. 352-371). It may well be doubted whether a similar decision would have been given in the present day. An opposite conclusion was arrived at by the House of Lords in the year 1885 in the Aylesford Peerage Case, where in many respects the facts were very similar.

<sup>1</sup> There is a portrait of Henry, Earl of Bradford, when Lord Newport, at Weston, by Dahl.

<sup>2</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 4 Ducie.

<sup>3</sup> It is said that his imbecility was caused by the prescriptions of a surgeon of the name of Alexander Small, who attended his mother Mrs. Smyth and acquired great influence over her, and who certainly managed to secure for himself a considerable share of the booty (*The Daily Advertiser*, 30 March 1780, which gives a most graphic and detailed account of this extraordinary history; Mr. Joseph Morris's MSS.).

<sup>4</sup> Her own as well as her husband's name was Smyth (see a marriage allegation in the Bishop of London's Registry, dated 26 June 1704, in which the parties were described as Ralph Smyth Esq., bachelor, aged 26, and Mrs. Ann Smyth, spinster, aged about 13, with the consent of her mother Mrs. Margaret Smyth, widow, all of St. James's, Westminster).





etc. of her son John Newport, formerly called John Harrison, until he should attain the age of 26 years, at which time he would come into possession of the estates under the Earl of Bradford's will. To William Pulteney, afterwards Earl of Bath, she gave the reversion in fee simple of the estates in case John Newport should die without issue.<sup>1</sup>

Ann Smyth died on 31 August 1742, and after various proceedings had been taken in Chancery by her executors, her will was established by decree dated 17 December 1751. John Newport lived for more than 40 years after his mother's death, and in the meantime the reversion in fee of the Newport estates had been devised by the Earl of Bath, who died without issue 8 July 1764, to his brother General Harry Pulteney, and by General Pulteney, who died without issue 26 October 1767, to his cousin Frances Pulteney and her husband William Johnstone Esq. (who afterwards took the name of Pulteney and became a baronet) for their lives, with successive remainder to their sons in tail male, with remainder to his cousin Henry Earl of Darlington for life, with remainder to his sons in tail male. John Newport died without issue on 29 April 1783, whereupon the Newport estates passed to Sir William Pulteney, whose wife Frances had died without issue male the previous year. On the death of Sir William Pulteney in May 1805 the estates devolved under the limitations of General Harry Pulteney's will upon William Henry Earl of Darlington, afterwards Duke of Cleveland, the only son of Henry Earl of Darlington, who had died in the year 1792; and after the Duke's death in 1842 they passed to his sons, the 2nd 3rd and 4th Dukes of Cleveland, who enjoyed them successively, and the last of whom devised them to Henry Lord Barnard the present owner.

<sup>1</sup> It was about this time that the Earl of Bath received much praise and commendation for his patriotism in being the great promoter of a bill for preventing the marriage of lunatics—a measure undoubtedly most excellent and wise,—but whether his motives in bringing it forward at this time were solely patriotic may perhaps be questioned by the reader of these pages. As a result of Mr. Small's connection with the estates under Mrs. Smyth's will it was declared by a Report of the Master in Chancery, dated 19 February 1753 soon after his death, that there was due to the executors of Alexander Small deceased a sum of £36,884 11s. The whole of the debts due from the estate were stated to be £38,136 16s. 1d., which the Earl of Bath paid, taking a mortgage on the estates for that amount, and by deeds of 5 and 6 March 1755 and 12 and 13 March 1755 the whole of the estates were, subject to this mortgage, vested in John Newport in tail, with reversion in fee simple to William Earl of Bath. (Mr. Joseph Morris's MSS.).



After this long digression on the history of the Newport family and the final alienation of their vast estates we must now return to Weston and its owners.

MARY, COUNTESS OF BRADFORD, the daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Wilbraham and Dame Elizabeth (the heiress of the Myttons of Weston), who, as already mentioned, was born at Weston 5 June and baptized there 16 June 1661<sup>1</sup> and was married there 20 April 1681,<sup>2</sup> succeeded to the Weston estates on the death of her mother, Dame Elizabeth Wilbraham, on 27 July 1705, and three years later her husband, Richard Viscount Newport, succeeded his father as second Earl of Bradford. She survived both her husband and her eldest son, Henry third Earl, and continued to reside at Weston, which her husband and she had made their principal residence, and where she was greatly beloved. She died at High Ercall 3 December 1737, and was buried at Weston by the side of her husband 17 December 1737.

By her will, dated 8 October 1737 and proved 31 December 1737, she gave all the building materials at Weston to her son Thomas: her dwelling house in St. James Square she gave to trustees upon trust for her daughter Lady Anne Bridgeman and her husband successively for life, with remainder to their children successively in tail, and an ultimate remainder to her grandson Charles Henry Lord Coote, afterwards Earl of Mountrath, in fee: she bequeathed legacies of £20,000 and £30,000 upon trust for Lady Anne Bridgeman, her husband, and children, and for Diana Countess of Mountrath, her husband, and children, respectively: she left her daughter Lady Anne Bridgeman amongst other specific gifts the picture of her granddaughter Miss Diana Bridgeman and her plate: the picture of her son Henry Earl of Bradford she gave to her son Thomas, and the pictures, which had been left by her brother in law Thomas Lord Torrington to her husband and by him to herself, she directed to be divided into three shares, one share of which, together with the pictures that had belonged to her mother Lady Wilbraham, she settled so as to devolve as heirlooms with Weston, whilst she gave to her daughters Lady Anne Bridgeman and Diana Countess of Mountrath each one of the other two shares.<sup>3</sup> She appointed her sons in law, James Cocks, Algernon

<sup>1</sup> Weston Par. Reg.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> The pictures which thus came to Lady Mountrath were left by her away from her own son to the Damers, and they are now at Emo Park in the possession of the Earl of Portarlington.



Earl of Mountrath and Orlando Bridgeman, and Sir Hugh Briggs, Bart., her executors, of whom the three latter proved her will 31 December 1737.<sup>1</sup>

On the death of Mary Countess Dowager of Bradford in 1737 the Weston estates devolved upon her third but only surviving son, THOMAS, EARL OF BRADFORD, who on his brother's death some three years before had succeeded to the title as 4th Earl. He was born 14 March 1686-7, and lived to an advanced age, but unhappily in a state of mental imbecility, caused by a fall from his horse in the Cowhey Wood at Weston in early life, when he was violently thrown with his head against a stone and received a concussion of the brain from which he never recovered. During his life his trustees added to the Weston estate by the purchase of Brineton Hall and lands in the parish of Blynhill, together with a share in the manor and advowson of Blynhill.<sup>2</sup> He died at Weston unmarried and intestate on 18 April 1762, when all the family titles expired, and the estates at Weston, Walsall and elsewhere, which he had inherited from his mother, devolved upon his nephew Henry Bridgeman, the son of his sister Lady Anne, and his other sister Diana Countess of Mountrath.

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 268 Wake.

<sup>2</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. II, Part 2, pp. 115, 116.





## V. THE BRIDGEMANS. (A.D. 1762-1899.)

THE family of Bridgeman of Great Lever, in the county of Lancaster, may be said to have been founded by John Bridgeman, who became Bishop of Chester in 1619. He was the son of Thomas Bridgeman of Greenway, in the county of Devon, and grandson of Edward Bridgeman of the same place, who was sheriff of the city and county of Exeter in 1563. This Edward is traditionally stated to have been a younger son of William Bridgeman of Mickle Dean, in the county of Gloucester, Esq. by Mary, daughter of Richard Bryan of Little Dean, and grandson of John Bridgeman of Mickle Dean by his wife Joan, daughter of William Clarke of the same place<sup>1</sup>; and there is strong presumptive evidence that Bishop Bridgeman was related to the Gloucestershire family of that name, not only from his bearing substantially the same arms, but also from the fact that he settled his estates, on failure of his own issue male and that of his brothers Edward and Thomas and his cousin Thomas Bridgeman of Exeter, gent., upon Sir John Bridgeman of Prinknash in the county of Gloucester, knight, a descendant of the Bridgemans of Mickle Dean. But it is certain that the Bridgemans were settled in Devonshire long before this time, and it is not improbable that a branch of the family migrated from thence into Gloucestershire. Dr. George Oliver, of Exeter, writes in 1855:—"I have lately, in examining the Haccombe deeds, found the Bridgeman family as early as 1324, both in Exeter and at Holte in Thorverton parish."<sup>2</sup> And John Bridgeman, as we learn from Hoker's original MS., quoted by Dr. Oliver, had been elected with John Nosworthy to represent the city of Exeter in the

<sup>1</sup> MS. Genealogical Account of the Family of Bridgeman of Great Lever, in the possession of the Earl of Bradford, drawn up for Sir Henry Bridgeman, Bart., afterwards 1st Lord Bradford. This traditional account is not borne out by the Herald's Visitations of Gloucestershire taken in 1583 and 1623, in which among the numerous family of William Bridgeman of Mickle Dean, who married for his second wife Mary daughter of Richard Brayne, there is no mention of any son of the name of Edward. Moreover, William Bridgeman is there stated to be the son of John Bridgeman by his first wife Alice daughter of William Theodore, and not by his second wife Joan Clarke.

<sup>2</sup> Letter from the Rev. George Oliver, D.D., to the Hon. and Rev. George T. O. Bridgeman.



Parliament held in 1522 [1523] at the Black Friars, London.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Oliver tells us that Mr. John Bridgeman was a wise man, and of great experience, having served in the wars in Spain under the Lord Brooke. He took a leading part in this Parliament, and strenuously resisted the rapacious subsidy of 4s. in the pound which the King demanded at the instigation of Wolsey. This brought him under the Cardinal's displeasure, which he seems to have taken much to heart. He died shortly afterwards, and was buried in London in the Savoy Church in the Strand. A John Bridgeman, probably the same person, was one of the stewards or bailiffs for the city of Exeter in 1515.<sup>2</sup>

The will of a John Bridgeman, apparently the same, was proved by his widow Alice on 1 March 1523-4. As this is the earliest authentic document we have which throws any light upon the origin of the Earl of Bradford's Bridgeman ancestors, it is here given in full:—

“In the Name of God Amen I John Brigeman of the cite of Exon the first day of the moneth of April the yere of our Lord God mv<sup>e</sup>xxiiij of good mynde and helth of body make my testament in this fourne first I bequeath my soule unto the Trinity my body to holy sepulture Item I bequēth to the bretherhede of Saint John Baptist in Excetur xx<sup>s</sup> to be delivēd unto the Master and Wardeyns of Taillours to be praid for there for evermore Item I bequēth to the p̄she churche of Saint Mary Mychell vi<sup>s</sup>. viij<sup>d</sup>. to be praid for there for evermore in the bederoll Item I bequēth unto the parson there Maister Laurence Dobell iij<sup>s</sup>. iiij<sup>d</sup>. Item at my burying or in convenient tyme then thereafter I will myñ executours or Execetour cause a trigintall of xxx masses to be saide for me and my frendes and all x̄pen soules in the said church of Saint Mary Item I bequeath unto my wif's some Robert Philips xl<sup>s</sup> besids that he hath had of me before this Item I bequēth unto his Brother John Philip e<sup>s</sup>. Item I bequēth to Edward Brigeman myn apprentice tenne poundes st. Item I bequēth unto William Geffrey and John Geffrey nowe beinge w<sup>th</sup> me x<sup>s</sup>. apece Item I bequēth to my Cosyn Edith Brigeman xl<sup>s</sup>. Item for ev<sup>er</sup>more I give v<sup>s</sup>. a yere out of my part of the house that Henry Leche dwelleth in yerely to be paid unto the prechour that maketh the sermon on Ester even yerely and my cosyn the

<sup>1</sup> Hooker's MS., p. 389, quoted in Dr. Oliver's letter to the Exeter "Flying Post," Oct. 1852.

<sup>2</sup> Izacke's Memorials of the City of Exeter, p. 108.



said Edward Brigeman shall paye the said fyve shillings to the said prechour yerely And for the doinge thereof after the decease of me John Brigeman and Alison my wife then I give unto the said Edward Brigeman all my right title interest that I now have or at any tyme hereafter may have in the said house w<sup>t</sup> the appurtenānces to have and to hold to him and to the heires of his body lawfully begotten and for default of such issue to remayne to his sister Edith Brigeman and to her heires of her body lawfully begotten alway p<sup>f</sup>ourming the same and my feoffees and their heires to stande and be sesed of and in the premises for evermore to the same use only and to noon other use And yf the said Edward or Edith do not p<sup>f</sup>ourme this my Wille in paying the said v<sup>s</sup> yerely as is aforesaid or that my said feoffs or their heires happen to decesse w<sup>t</sup>out heirs Then it shalbe l<sup>f</sup>full to the Master and Wardeyns of Taillours in Exetour and their successours to enter in the said house that Henry Leche dwelleth in with the appurtenances to have and to hold the said premises with all the profits to theym and to their successours for evermore to the maintenance of the fraternitie and gilde of Saint John Baptist in Exetur forevermore paying yerely the said v<sup>s</sup> to the said prechour as is aforesaid And also I bequeth to the Graye Freres in Exetur liij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> yf they will take the charge uppon them to keepe yerely an obite for evermore for me and my frendes as followeth first for me John Brigeman and Alison my wife and my fader and moder John Brigeman and Isabell his wife and John Gaunt her last husband and my wife's fader and moder Richard Bartlet and Johane his wife and for all the soules that I and my wife be specially bounden to pray for and all X<sup>p</sup>en soules. And yf they will not then the said Freres to have but iij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> for saying Dirges and brynging my body to the churche Item to my Brother Robert Brigeman of Gillingham one of my werying gownes And I bequeth to my Brother Thomas Gaunt of Stourminster Newton Castle another of my werying gownes to be appointed by myn Exeutors and delivered to them Item I bequeth unto my serv<sup>n</sup>ts Richard Osteler Will<sup>m</sup> Eslot and Willmet Berd, yf they dwell w<sup>t</sup> me at the tyme of my decesse xl<sup>d</sup> above their wages apece of them and to Margery Greston for her service w<sup>t</sup> me xl<sup>s</sup>. Item I bequeth to every parishe church in Exeter xij<sup>d</sup> Item I will that all the residue of my goodes and catalls and debts all paid to be at Will and libertie of Alson my wife whom I make myn Executrice she to order and dispose them to the helth of my soule





and her soule and all xpen soules as she cann think most best Item I bequeth to William Hurst xx<sup>s</sup> to be overseer of my will to se this my last will performed and over all this I will that my sister in lawe Margaret Brigeman and my wil's sister Johane and her husband Geffrey have every of them a gowne or a gowne cloth In witsesse hereof I the said John Brigeman writte this my last will with myñ owne hande The day and yere abovesaid."<sup>1</sup>

In the Churchwardens' Accounts of St. Petrock's parish, Exeter, for 1523 we find a gift of "*vrij<sup>d</sup> rec<sup>t</sup> de Johne Brygeman ex dono carital' ut anima Joh'nis nuper viri eius int' benefact' eccl'ie p'dict' in eterna habeatur memoria.*"<sup>2</sup> If the name (*qu.* Joan) is correctly transcribed, this must have been another John Bridgeman, possibly the son of the testator and father of the Edward Bridgeman described in his will as his "cosyn," a word which simply meant "*consanguineus*" and is often used for grandson.

"We have seen a lease," says Dr. Oliver, "dated the 7th of November 1538, by which John Peryn, Abbot of Tavistock, and his convent, shortly before the final suppression of their house, granted a term of 60 years in their Town Hotel, commonly called the Bear Inn, in South Street, Exeter, to Edward Brygeman and Johan his wife; as also the rent of two closes near the cemetery of St. Thomas' Church, within their manor of Cowick, which Alice Brygeman then held; also the rent of Oke Mede and Strayer Park, in Cowick, under the yearly rent of £9. 10s. for the Bear Inn and the two closes aforesaid (20s. of which sum were payable to the prior of Plympton), and a further sum of £1. 6s. 8d. for Oke Mede and Strayer Park."<sup>3</sup>

We find that Edward Bridgeman was one of the stewards or bailiffs for the city of Exeter in 1546, as also in 1562; and in the 5th year of Queen Elizabeth (1563) he served the office of sheriff of the city and county of Exeter.<sup>4</sup>

"Mr. Edwarde Bridgeman," doubtless the same person, was

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 17 Bodfelde.

<sup>2</sup> Hist. of St. Petrock's Parish, Exeter, by Robert Dymond, published in the Transactions of the Devonshire Association for 1882, p. 447.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Oliver's letter to the Exeter "Flying Post," Oct. 1852. Prince tells us that in 1701 the arms of Ordulf, the founder of the Abbey, and of the Abbey itself were to be seen on painted glass in the great window of the dining room of the Bear Inn, "and between the two Coats, from a Rebus of this name, a man standing on a Bridge, *qu.* Bridgeman"; on the outside of the window was an old inscription then illegible (Prince's Worthies of Devon, p. 100). The old Bear Inn was pulled down about a century ago (Jenkins' Hist. of Exeter, p. 375).

<sup>4</sup> Izaeke's Memorials of the City of Exeter, pp. 52, 122, 130.



buried at the church of St. Mary the More, or St. Mary Major, in Exeter on the "xx<sup>th</sup> daye of december," 1565.<sup>1</sup> His widow, Mrs. Joan Bridgeman, by a deed dated 16 June 1568, gave the lands at Greenway, alias Spyre Park,<sup>2</sup> in the parish of St. Thomas near Exeter to her second son Thomas Bridgeman of Exeter, merchant.<sup>3</sup>

Edward Bridgeman, the father of Thomas, left several sons, namely Michael, Thomas, John, Edmund and Jasper; and also several daughters, Anstice, Joan, another Joan, Elizabeth and Alice; of these children, we learn from a MS. inventory of Edward Bridgeman's effects at the time of his death in December 1565 that Edmund, Jasper, the two Joans (one of whom is described as "Jone the elder" and the other as "Jone the younger"), Elizabeth and Alice were then under age.

Of the daughters of Edward Bridgeman, Anstice was the second wife of the celebrated Devonshire antiquary John Hooker, Chamberlain of Exeter from 1554 to 1601, and uncle to the "judicious Hooker" author of the famous "Ecclesiastical Polity"; John Hooker was born in 1524.<sup>4</sup> One of the Joans married Laurence Barkham of St. Leonards near Exeter, whose second son Dr. John Barkham, Dean of Boeking, was born in the parish of St. Mary the More in the city of Exeter about the year 1572;<sup>5</sup> "Larens Barcombe and Joan Brygmā" were married at St. Mary Major's, Exeter, 10 Feb. 1566.<sup>6</sup> The other Joan appears to have been the wife of Hugh Osborne, "Hughe Osbronne and Joan Brygmā" having been married at St. Mary Major's on 16 June of the same year.<sup>7</sup> Of Elizabeth and Alice nothing more is known for certain; but an Alice Bridgeman, possibly the same, was married to William Heale at St. Mary Major's on 18 June 1571.<sup>8</sup>

Michael Bridgeman, the eldest son of Edward Bridgeman, had "lands of a good value" left to him by his father.<sup>9</sup> He left only daughters, who divided his inheritance between them.<sup>10</sup> Of these daughters we know the names of two. "Joane Brydgmā the daughter of Michell Brydgmā" was married to John Payne at St. Mary Major's, Exeter, on 12 June 1587.<sup>11</sup> "Dorotie Bridgman

<sup>1</sup> St. Mary Major, Exeter, Par. Reg.

<sup>2</sup> This was probably the same as "Strayer Park" mentioned on the preceding page.

<sup>3</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>4</sup> Hooker's Works, Keble's ed., Vol. I, p. 6, *note*.

<sup>5</sup> Prince's Worthies of Devon, p. 101.

<sup>6</sup> St. Mary Major, Exeter, Par. Reg.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> St. Mary Major, Exeter, Par. Reg.





the daughter of Michael Bridgman" was christened at the same church in February 1573, and married there to William Jurdayne on 2 March 1594<sup>1</sup>; the Rev. George Bridgeman, Vicar of Holcombe Rogus, son of Jasper Bridgeman, in his will dated 12 June 1628, mentions his "cousin Dorothe Jurden's children"; the will of Dorothy Jurdayne, widow, is dated 1644-5, and was proved in 1651; she left children and grand-children. Another daughter of "Myhell Brydgeman" was baptized at St. Mary Major's in November 1577, but her name is not given.<sup>2</sup> "Michael Brigeman" was buried at St. Mary Major's on 1 April 1578.<sup>3</sup>

About John, the third son of Edward Bridgeman, we can find nothing except that he was living on 28 April 1571, and he and Jasper were then described as sons of Mrs. Joan Bridgeman widow, and brothers of Thomas Bridgeman. Edmund, the fourth son, we cannot trace after the year 1565.

Jasper, the youngest son of Edward Bridgeman, was Registrar of the Archdeaconry of Exeter and Registrar of the Admiralty of Devon. He seems to have thriven upon the emoluments of his office and to have purchased a house and lands at Moreton Hampstead in Devonshire, to obtain quiet possession of which he had a suit in Chancery against the vendors, Robert Baker, Jasper Wannell, and John Baker, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.<sup>4</sup> He was living in 1608, and dead in 1617.<sup>5</sup> He married, 15 Oct. 1592, "Mrs. Jone Prowse," daughter of Mr. Nicholas Wichalles, or Wichalse, of Barnstaple,<sup>6</sup> but whether she was his only wife we can not say. He had issue four sons, and apparently two or more daughters: Simon, Thomas, George and Jasper; Margaret, the wife of . . . . Turner, who had issue Thomas Turner and other children living in 1646; and "Mrs. Marie Skyenner" of Shillingford near Exeter, who is mentioned in the will of the Rev. George Bridgeman of Holcombe Rogus as his sister in 1623.<sup>7</sup>

Simon Bridgeman, the eldest son and heir of Jasper, inherited from his father lands, messuages etc. in the city and county of

<sup>1</sup> St. Mary Major, Exeter, Par. Reg.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Cal. Proceedings in Chancery *temp.* Eliz., Vol. I, p. 143.

<sup>5</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>6</sup> Barnstaple Par. Reg.

<sup>7</sup> She may possibly have been his sister-in-law; but since the legacy he bequeathed to her was left in the hands of his brother Thomas Bridgeman to deliver to her in such portions and such sort as he should think most fit, it is more probable that she was their own sister, and therefore the daughter of Mr. Jasper Bridgeman; moreover there is no mention of her in the will of the Rev. George Bridgeman's wife. It is not improbable that Jasper Dynham of Ihminster, referred to presently, may have been the son of another daughter of Jasper Bridgeman's.





Exeter and in the county of Devon.<sup>1</sup> He was living in the parish of St. Stephen's, Exeter, on 3 April 1646, the date of his will. He does not appear to have left any children: for, after providing for Thomasine his wife, and bequeathing a sum of £400 to his sister Margaret Turner's children, he leaves the bulk of his property, which he describes as being in the several parishes of St. Martin's, St. Stephen's, "St. Mary the Moore," St. Paul's, and elsewhere in the city of Exeter, and in the parish of Kenn in the county of Devon, to his near and dear kinsman Jasper Dynham, of Ilminster in the county of Somerset, gent. He was dead on 7 April 1646, on which day his will was proved in the Archdeaconry Court of Exeter by Jasper Dynham, whom he had named as his sole executor.

Thomas Bridgeman, another son of Jasper, who was admitted to Gray's Inn 9 Aug. 1626,<sup>2</sup> in his will bearing date 3 April 1641 describes himself as of the city of Exeter, gent. He bequeaths his body to be buried in the parish of St. Stephen's in Exeter by or near to his father, and he gives the sum of one hundred marks towards the erecting of a monument both for his father and for himself.<sup>3</sup> He gives certain small legacies to his "elder brother Simon Bridgeman," and to his "brother Jasper Bridgeman," provided that neither of them claim any title to his lands and tenements. He gives £400 to his sister Margaret Turner's children and grandchildren to be equally divided amongst them except his nephew Thomas Turner, who is to have no part in the said £400; but he leaves to Thomas Turner £100, provided that he troubles not his executors, but is content with the legacy he gives him. To his cousin Jasper Dynham, the son of John Dynham of Ilminster deceased, and to the children's children of the said John, he bequeaths £100 to be equally divided between them; to Jasper Dynham an additional £5 to buy him a ring, and to his wife 50s.; to Jasper's sister Agnes Rook £5; to his (the testator's) aunt Grobham widow 50s., and to Andrew Grobham £5; and, after giving many other legacies, and considerable sums for the maintenance of the churches of St. Stephen's, St. Michael's, and St. Mary the More in Exeter, and to the poor of the city of Exeter and of the parish of Lantegloss juxta Foy, and

<sup>1</sup> Will of Simon Bridgeman at the District Registry of Exeter.

<sup>2</sup> Foster's "Gray's Inn Admission Register," p. 179.

<sup>3</sup> His will appears never to have been carried out in this respect (*ex inf.* Mr. Thos. Wilkin-son to the Hon. and Rev. George T. O. Bridgeman). Cf. Jenkins' Exeter, p. 322.



making over to William Scawen all his right and title to the Registry of the Admiralty of Devon and to the Registry of the Archdeaconry, he leaves all his lands and tenements and the residue of his goods and chattels to Hugh Potter Esq. and George Potter of Exeter, merchant, whom he names as his executors, and to their heirs for ever. These lands he describes as being "within the city and county of Exon and the suburbs of the same, and within the several parishes of Moreton, Kenn [and] Exminster, in the county of Devon, Endelion and Linkinhorne in the county of Cornwall, and elsewhere." His will was proved in the Principal Registry of the Lord Bishop of Exeter on 13 April 1641. Since no children are mentioned in the will, it may be presumed that he died without issue. As Thomas Bridgeman of the city of Exeter, gent. (described in a draft copy as son of Jasper<sup>1</sup>) he is mentioned in an entail of Bishop Bridgeman's estates, made in 1632, after the sons and brothers of the Bishop and before Sir John Bridgeman of Princhnash, knight; and he is the only one of the sons of Jasper mentioned in the entail.<sup>2</sup> Izacke says that he bore for his arms, "Sable, ten plates, 4, 3, 2, 1; on a chief argent a lion passant of the first. *Dieu defend le droit.*"<sup>3</sup>

George Bridgeman, another son of Jasper, was educated at Cambridge, as we learn from Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger, apparently at Magdalen College,<sup>4</sup> and was there in 1610. On the presentation of Jasper Bridgeman, public notary, (his father) he succeeded on 28 July 1613 to the prebend of Carswell within the chapel of Exeter Castle, vacant by the resignation of John Bridgeman.<sup>5</sup> He was also admitted on the same day to the vicarage of Holcombe Rogus in the county of Devon, void by the death of Martin Cockram, on the presentation of Edmund Wyndham and John Peter, Esquires.<sup>6</sup> He died in 1623, and by his will, dated 12 June of that year, he bequeaths his body to be buried at Holcombe, in the chancel of the church, if he should die there. He leaves his wife Honor, who was the daughter of Mr. Thomas Zeale (or Seale), parson of Huntsham, his executor; and after bequeathing certain legacies to his brothers, Thomas,

<sup>1</sup> Small MS. in the handwriting of Bishop Bridgeman.

<sup>2</sup> Folio MS. in the possession of the Earl of Bradford, being chiefly a collection of deeds relating to lands purchased by Bishop Bridgeman.

<sup>3</sup> Izacke's Register of Benefactors of Exeter, p. 33.

<sup>4</sup> "Georgius Bridgeman" was admitted "discipulus hujus Collegii" 3 June 1605 (Magd. Coll., Cambridge, Reg.).

<sup>5</sup> Dr. Geo. Oliver's note to Mr. Thos. Wilkinson, 21 July 1857.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*





Jasper and Simon, to his sister, "Mrs. Marie Skynner of Shillingforde neare Exceter," to his "sister Margaret Turner's daughter Anne Turner in Bristowe," to his "cousin Dorotheie Jurden's children," and to others, he makes his wife residuary legatee. This will was proved in the Principal Registry of the Lord Bishop of Exeter on 22 July 1623, when the inventory amounted to £206 14s. 8d. It may be presumed that he left no children, as none are mentioned either in his will or in that of his wife, who did not long survive him, for her will, which is dated 10 Dec. 1624, was proved on 3 May 1625.

Of Jasper, the other son of Jasper, nothing further is known. He was living in April 1641, the date of his brother Thomas Bridgeman's will; but as he is not mentioned in that of his brother Simon in April 1646, it would seem likely that he was dead before that time, in all probability without issue. It may naturally be inferred from the wills of Simon Bridgeman and his brothers that none of them left issue, and that the issue of Margaret became the representatives, or co-representatives, of Jasper Bridgeman the father.

Thomas Bridgeman, the second son of Edward, and father of the Bishop, was a merchant in Exeter. He had the estate of Greenway, or Spyre Park, in the manor of Cowick and parish of St. Thomas near Exeter, settled upon him by his mother Mrs. Joan Bridgeman, who survived her husband. The deed of gift is dated 29 March 9 Eliz. (1567), but it was not sealed and delivered until 16 June 1568.<sup>1</sup> By deed of 1604 Thomas Bridgeman conveys the estate to his eldest son John, who by deed dated 30 Jan. 1608-9 settles it upon his father and mother for their lives, with remainder to himself and his wife Elizabeth and the heirs of his body, with remainder to his own right heirs. Thomas Bridgeman married Alice, the daughter of John Jones, goldsmith, of the city of Exeter, who by his will, dated 4 Jan. 1583, amongst other things left to his daughter Alice Bridgeman and the heirs of her body two houses with the appurtenances in the parish of St. Martin and city of Exeter, between the house wherein Henry Southerne then or lately dwelt, and the house wherein Mr. Christopher Spicer then dwelt, which houses of his were then inhabited by William Maisters and Zacharie Lymbery; the testator desired that neither Alice nor her heirs should alienate or sell these premises; in default of the issue

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.





of Alice they were to come to his daughter Agnes Every.<sup>1</sup> Thomas Bridgeman was one of the stewards or bailiffs for the city of Exeter in 1584.<sup>2</sup> He died on 23 July 1627, and was buried in the cathedral church of Exeter. His wife Alice survived him but a few months, and dying at Exeter on 31 Jan. 1627-8 was buried by the side of her husband "*in medio navis ecclesie cathedralis Exon,*" where her father and mother were also buried.<sup>3</sup> "Thomas Bridgeman and Ales Jones" were married at St. Petrock's on 10 Feb. 1576-7<sup>4</sup>; and the following entries of the baptisms of their children occur in the registers of St. Petrock's and St. Mary Major's, Exeter, and St. Thomas', Cowick. At St. Petrock's: "The seconde of November A.D. 1577 John Bridgman the son of Thomas Bridgman was baptized." "The xxx<sup>th</sup> of October a<sup>o</sup> dñi 1578 Humfrey Bridgman the sonne of Thomas Bridgman was baptized."<sup>5</sup> At St. Mary Major's: 1580 "Agnis the daughter of Thomas Bridgman was baptized the v<sup>th</sup> day of Aprill." 1581 "Johan the daughter of Thomas Bridgman bapt. the 4<sup>th</sup> Novr." 1583 "Emlinge the daughter of Thomas Bridgman bapt. 22 Aprill."<sup>6</sup> At St. Petrock's again: "The xxix<sup>th</sup> Jany 1584 [1584-5] Ruth the daughter of Thomas Bridgman was baptized." "The xxix<sup>th</sup> of March 1586 Elizabeth the daughter of Thomas Bridgman was baptized." "The xxiiij of June Ann Dom 1587 Mary the daughter of Thomas Bridgman was baptized."<sup>7</sup> At St. Thomas', Cowick, near Exeter: 1588 "xxv of Maie was christened Thomas the sone of Thomas Bridgeman." 1589 "xxviiij of June was christened Andrewe the sone of Thomas Bridgeman." 1593 "The seconde daie of Decembre were christened Liddie and Priscilla the

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger. John Jones' will was proved in London on 4 Feb. 1583, and administration granted to Thomas Bridgeman and Henry Every.

<sup>2</sup> Izaeke's Memorials of the City of Exeter, p. 137.

<sup>3</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger. Although John Jones and his wife were both buried in Exeter Cathedral, it is probable that the following registers of St. Petrock's parish refer to them: "The xxvij<sup>th</sup> March A.D. 1582 Johane Jones the wife of John Jones was buried." "The x<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1583 John Jones was buried." The Cathedral Register does not commence till March 1593, which might account for their being entered in St. Petrock's Register. Izaeke, in his Memorials of Exeter (p. 136) tells us that in 1578 "John Jones of that City, Goldsmith, bestowed on the Mayor herof a Bason and Ewer of Silver, parcel gilt, of £30 value, for the use of the said Mayor and his Successors for ever, for the City's Honour."

<sup>4</sup> St. Petrock's, Exeter, Par. Reg.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> St. Mary Major, Exeter, Par. Reg.

<sup>7</sup> St. Petrock's, Exeter, Par. Reg.



daughters of Thomas Bridgeman."<sup>1</sup> They had another son called Edward, who was one of the youngest of the family.

Of Thomas Bridgeman's younger children, Humphrey, the second son, probably died unmarried. From an entry in Bishop Bridgeman's accounts for the year 1609 he would seem to have been then or lately living in London, but we hear no more of him after this; nor yet of Andrew, the fourth son, who probably died young.

Thomas Bridgeman, the third son, was educated at Magdalene College, Cambridge, and took holy orders. He was Rector of Alwalton near Peterborough, which benefice he seems to have resigned about the year 1622<sup>2</sup>; from 1618 to 1623 he held the prebend of Bishopshill in Lichfield<sup>3</sup>; he was also rural dean of Worrall, or Wirrall, in the diocese of Chester.<sup>4</sup> He died in the Bishop's palace at Chester on 26 March 1632, and was buried in the chancel of the Cathedral,<sup>5</sup> leaving a widow of whom we hear no more after that year; nor do we meet with any mention of children.

Edward Bridgeman, the youngest son of Thomas Bridgeman of Greenway, followed his eldest brother into Lancashire. He was married in the year 1620<sup>6</sup>; about which time he was made a notary public.<sup>7</sup> Dr. Oliver says that after losing his first wife he went to reside near his brother at Wigan.<sup>8</sup> He was returned as M.P. for Wigan in 1625, and again in 1628, having sat for Liverpool in 1625-6.<sup>9</sup> In 1627 he married a second wife; the marriage is thus entered in the Parochial Register of Warrington for that year: 'June 30, Edward Bridgeman Esquire and Eleanor Brooke widow were married.' Bishop Bridgeman calls her the "widow of old Mr. Brookes of Norton in Cheshire." She was doubtless the third wife of Thomas Brooke of Norton Esq., and the mother of Sir Peter Brooke of Mere, knight, an eminent member of the Long Parliament,<sup>10</sup> in which case her maiden name will have been

<sup>1</sup> St. Thomas', Cowick, Par. Reg.

<sup>2</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>3</sup> Willis's Survey of Cathedrals, Vol. I, p. 426.

<sup>4</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* He was admitted to Gray's Inn 21 Nov. 1624 (Foster's "Gray's Inn Adm. Reg.," p. 175).

<sup>8</sup> Dr. Oliver's Letter to the Exeter "Flying Post," Oct. 1852.

<sup>9</sup> Return of Members of Parliament (printed by order by the House of Commons in 1878).

<sup>10</sup> In the year 1642 Bishop Bridgeman has a note in his pocket-book respecting his brother Edward Bridgeman, his wife and daughters, and his son Peter. These would be his step-children, Peter, afterwards Sir Peter, Brooke and his sisters.





Eleanor Gerard. She died early in 1637, and was buried at Warrington on 12 Jan. 1637-8<sup>1</sup>; and Mr. Edward Bridgeman appears to have been married again in 1640 or 1641 to Anne, the daughter of Sir Hugh Chamberlayne of the county of Chester, knight,<sup>2</sup> by whom he had an only daughter Anne, the heir to his estates.<sup>3</sup>

Sharing in the loyal principles of his family Mr. Edward Bridgeman experienced much persecution from the Parliamentary faction. His house near Warrington was stormed, and he himself was subjected to heavy penalties. In Burghall's "Providence Improved" an account is given of an attack made by the Parliamentarians on Warrington. He says: "Sir William Brereton and they begirt the town about, and fiercely assaulted it, having gotten Sanky Bridge, a fair house of one Mr. Bridgeman's,<sup>4</sup> and some of the outer walls, and within a short time were likely to get the whole, which the Earl of Derby perceiving set the middle of the town on fire, protesting he would burn it all down ere they should have it; which the parliament forces perceiving, to save it from utter destruction, withdrew their forces." This happened in April 1643. The Lancashire sequestrations afford abundant evidence that Edward Bridgeman was a consistent Royalist, and that he suffered heavily in purse as well as in the attack upon his house alluded to by Burghall; and he not only took up arms on behalf of the King, but lent him £5,000 in his distress.<sup>5</sup>

The tradition current among his Edgeworth descendants is that shortly after the death of King Charles I, which took place in January 1648-9, Edward Bridgeman was seized as a delinquent and a traitor, committed to gaol, and sent for, with other State prisoners, to be tried by one of the pretended High Courts of Justice in London; that during his journey he fell ill, and was treated with such gross inhumanity by Cromwell's soldiers that when he had arrived near Barnet, within ten miles of London, he expired in the coach.<sup>6</sup> This account may be substantially true; but, if so,

<sup>1</sup> Warrington Par. Reg.

<sup>2</sup> Edgeworth Evidences.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> This house, which was built, according to the date recorded on the west corner of one of its gables, in 1632, is still standing, though in a sadly reduced condition, and is known as the "Black Horse Tavern" (Beaumont's Hist. of Sankey, p. 46).

<sup>5</sup> Private memoir of Richard Edgeworth Esq., dated 1747, communicated to the Hon. and Rev. G. T. O. Bridgeman by C. S. Edgeworth Esq. in 1858.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*





it would seem to be incorrect as to the date and exact place of his death; for his brother, Bishop Bridgeman, in the index to his Private Ledger, says that "he dyed rydeing to London nere Derby and was buried at Chigwel Octob. 1645;" this evidently refers to Chigwell in Essex, which is about ten miles from London.<sup>1</sup> He appears to have died intestate, and on 16 March 1645-6 leave was granted to Anne his widow to administer to his effects; although in the Lancashire sequestration of the year 1646 his estates had to be compounded for under his own name for £100,<sup>2</sup> and his name was retained upon the Parish Rate Book as late as 1649.<sup>3</sup> The administration granted to his widow was subsequently cancelled; and several years later, on 3 Aug. 1659, letters of administration were issued from the Court of Probate in London to "Anne Edgeworth *alias* Bridgman the daughter of Edward Bridgman, late of Warrington, in the county of Lancaster, Esquire, intestate, deceased," the former administration being brought into court and declared void.<sup>4</sup>

Mr. Edward Bridgeman held the offices of Searcher, Packer, and Gauger of the Port of Dublin, which he seems to have discharged by deputy, for he resided in England either at Little Sankey near Warrington or else at Crontonshaw in Cheshire, where he also had an estate.<sup>5</sup> His landed property, together with £10,000 in money, devolved at his death upon his daughter: and the rest of his fortune, consisting of upwards of £10,000, fell to his widow, who was re-married to Captain John Edgeworth of Cranallagh Castle co. Longford, and died in Dublin in 1685, leaving her property to her "brother Nathaniel Chamberlaine, Bachelor in Physick."<sup>6</sup>

Their daughter Anne Bridgeman was born 13 Oct. 1642,<sup>7</sup> and baptized at Warrington 26 Nov. of the same year.<sup>8</sup> She married Sir John Edgeworth, of Cranallagh Castle, knight, son of the Captain John Edgeworth just mentioned, by whom she had a large family. Her eldest son Francis is now represented by the Edgeworths of Edgeworthstown; her second son Robert was the ancestor of the

<sup>1</sup> The Parochial Register at Chigwell for this period is unfortunately reported to be illegible, so that there is no opportunity of confirming this statement of the Bishop.

<sup>2</sup> Baines's Lancashire, Vol. II, p. 35.

<sup>3</sup> *Ex inf.* W. Beamont Esq. of Warrington.

<sup>4</sup> Edgeworth Evidences.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Warrington Par. Reg.



Edgeworths of Kilshrewly; and her sixth son Essex, a clergyman, was the father of Monsieur de Firmont, the celebrated Abbé Edgeworth. Dame Anne Edgeworth was a somewhat remarkable character; and a most interesting account of her is given in the "Memoirs of Richard Lovell Edgeworth Esq." (her great grandson), which were completed by his daughter Maria Edgeworth. The writer informs us that she used to relate to his father many curious anecdotes of the five successive reigns during which she lived. One of his stories about her we can not refrain from quoting, as it strikingly illustrates her courage and presence of mind. "When she was living at Lissard," he says, "she was on some sudden alarm obliged to go at night to a garret at the top of the house for some gunpowder, which was kept there in a barrel. She was followed up stairs by an ignorant servant girl, who carried a bit of candle without a candlestick between her fingers. When Lady Edgeworth had taken what gunpowder she wanted, had locked the door, and was half way down stairs again, she observed that the girl had not her candle, and asked what she had done with it; the girl recollected, and answered that she had left it *'stuck in the barrel of black salt.'* Lady Edgeworth bid her stand still, and instantly returned by herself to the room where the gunpowder was, found the candle as the girl had described, put her hand carefully underneath it, carried it safely out, and when she had got to the bottom of the stairs dropped on her knees, and thanked God for their deliverance."<sup>1</sup> Dame Anne Edgeworth survived her husband many years. She sold her property at Little Sankey in 1661, and her estate at Crontonsshaw and that called "Sefton's tenement" (presumed to be the same as Acton Grange) in 1704, and removed from Cheshire to Ireland, where she died in 1714 at Longwood, the residence of her second son Robert.<sup>2</sup>

On 20 Jan. 1620-1 Edward Bridgeman, then describing himself as of Livesley in the county of Lancaster, gent., third son of Thomas Bridgeman of Greenway in the county of Devon, gave for his paternal coat, "sables, ten bezants, 4, 3, 2, and 1; upon a creast argent a lyon passant erminge: and for difference of consanguinitie a mullett or;" when he had confirmed to him by Sir Richard St. George, knight, Norroy King of Arms, for a crest, "upon a wreath or and sable a demy lyon argent gutty gules, jesant a lawrell garlant proper."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Memoirs of Richard Lovell Edgeworth, Vol. I, pp. 13, 14.

<sup>2</sup> Edgeworth Evidences.

<sup>3</sup> Harl. MS. 5800, fo. 22.





The daughters of Thomas Bridgeman of Greenway and Alice his wife were Agnes, Joan, Emily, Ruth, Elizabeth, Mary, Lydia and Priscilla. Of these, Agnes married John Smith of Exeter<sup>1</sup>; one of their daughters, who was named Elizabeth, came to live with Bishop Bridgeman her uncle at Wigan, and married William Bispham of Billinge,<sup>2</sup> probably the same as the Rev. William Bispham, Sub-dean of Chester, and Rector of Brindle and of one of the mediocities of Lymm.<sup>3</sup> Joan Bridgeman married the Rev. Edward Elliot,<sup>4</sup> who was at one time Curate of "Alveton" in Devonshire, and is described in the Herald's Visitation of Devon in 1620 as of Tavistock, and then in the 56th year of his age<sup>5</sup>; they had several children, of whom Ruth came to Wigan in 1628 to reside, like her cousin Elizabeth Smith, with her uncle the Bishop, and married the Rev. Essex Clark, Rector of Tilston and Doddleston, and Prebendary of Chester; the Rev. Edward Elliot, who afterwards became Rector of Newton-Ferrers, died in 1646, leaving his widow surviving.<sup>6</sup> Ruth Bridgeman married Walter Rhetorick<sup>7</sup>; she was dead in 1631.<sup>8</sup> Lydia Bridgeman married Dr. George Snell, Archdeacon of Chester, and Rector of Wallasey and Smeaton<sup>9</sup>; Dr. Snell died in 1655, and was buried in St. Mary's Church, Chester, with this short epitaph: "*Hic situs est Georgius Snell, S.T.P., Archidiaconus Cestriensis, qui per injuriam temporis in communionem laicam reductus privatus obiit Feb. 5, 1655.*"<sup>10</sup> Bishop Bridgeman also mentions a sister Bates, who was apparently living in London in 1621 and 1622<sup>11</sup>; a Dr. Bates, Prebendary of Westminster, stood sponsor to one of the Bishop's children at St. Margaret's, Westminster, in 1633, and it is not unlikely that he may have been the husband of "Sister Bates."

As John Bridgeman, afterwards Bishop of Chester, the eldest son of Mr. Thomas Bridgeman of Greenway, may fairly be called the founder of the family of the present owner of the Weston estates, a

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Willis's Survey of Cathedrals, Vol. I, p. 347.

<sup>4</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>5</sup> Harl. MS. 1080.

<sup>6</sup> His Will was proved by his widow Joan 1 May 1646 (Probate Registry at Exeter).

<sup>7</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Willis's Survey of Cathedrals, Vol. I, pp. 341, 342.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* Vol. I, p. 341.

<sup>11</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.





somewhat fuller account of his life has been attempted than would perhaps be otherwise desirable considering that it was not till five generations later that his descendants came into actual possession of the manor. The task of his biographer has been rendered easier by the careful and methodical habits of the Bishop himself, an interesting example of which was brought to light a few years ago by the late Canon Bridgeman's discovering, in an old chest among the Earl of Bradford's muniments in London, a MS. ledger, consisting of more than five hundred folio pages of closely-written matter in the Bishop's own minute and regular handwriting. This volume, which is on the whole in a good state of preservation, though a few of the earlier leaves are corroded and decayed, contains not only a list of loans, contributions, subsidies and ship money paid by the clergy of the diocese of Chester between the years 1620 and 1639 inclusive (which has been published in Vol. XII of the Record Society for Lancashire and Cheshire), but also a great many pages of private memoranda, chiefly between the years 1608 and 1641, referring to his own annual income and expenditure and other personal matters. This *private* Ledger must not be confused with a better known monument of Bishop Bridgeman's scrupulous care and accuracy which is generally quoted by antiquaries as "Bishop Bridgeman's Ledger," a MS. volume preserved in the Diocesan Registry at Chester containing much information relating to the ecclesiastical history of the diocese, which we may here distinguish as Bishop Bridgeman's *Chester* Ledger; nor with yet another book of somewhat similar character in the keeping of the Rector of Wigan (in this case not the original, but a copy made in 1708 by one of his successors, the Hon. and Rev. Edward Finch) which gives an account of many matters connected with the manor and parish of Wigan while he was rector there, and which will be here quoted as Bishop Bridgeman's *Wigan* Ledger.

Those who desire a still fuller life of Bishop John Bridgeman, who had his share in many of the stirring events and important controversies of his day, will find it in "The History of the Church and Manor of Wigan,"<sup>1</sup> from which the present account has been mainly abridged.

John Bridgeman was born at Exeter, in Cookrow Street, and,

<sup>1</sup> History of the Church and Manor of Wigan, by the Hon. and Rev. George T. O. Bridgeman, published by the Chetham Society in 1888-90 (Vols. 15, 16, 17, 18, N.S.)



as already stated, was christened at the church of St. Petrock's in that city on 2 Nov. 1577.<sup>1</sup> As Prince in his "Worthies of Devon"<sup>2</sup> tells us that being "well disposed to books and learning he was carefully kept at school till he was thought fit to be transplanted to the University," it is probable that he received his early education in his native town, where, as Izacke says, there was an ancient "High School for the better education of youth in good literature."<sup>3</sup> He began his University life at Oriel College, Oxford, from whence he removed to St. Peter's College, Cambridge; and he was elected a fellow of Magdalene College, Cambridge, in 1599.<sup>4</sup> He was ordained deacon and priest by Dr. Thomas Dove, Bishop of Peterborough, on 29 April 1601, and qualified as his chaplain on 2 Aug. of the same year.<sup>5</sup> He was made University preacher on 1 July 1603<sup>6</sup>; and in the following year was preferred by his uncle, Mr. Jasper Bridgeman, to the prebend of Carswell attached to St. Mary's chapel in the castle of Exeter.<sup>7</sup> Bishop Dove of Peterborough seems to have been his constant friend, and in a letter written in 1604 to the Earl of Suffolk, who was then Lord Chamberlain, speaks of the young fellow of Magdalene in the following terms:—"He is an honest man, a good scholar, and a rare preacher: this I doe report out of mine owne knowledge, being well acquaynted bothe w<sup>th</sup> the sufficiencie of his learning and w<sup>th</sup> the synceritie of his lyfe by the meanes of his domesticall conversation w<sup>th</sup> me."<sup>8</sup>

About this time Mr. Bridgeman appears to have come under the favourable notice of King James I, who presented him in 1604 to the rectory of Lezant in Cornwall<sup>9</sup> and the vicarage of Alvington in Devonshire,<sup>10</sup> and the next year made him his own chaplain in ordinary.<sup>11</sup> On 29 April 1606 he married, in Dunchideock Church, Elizabeth, daughter of the Ven. William Helyar, Archdeacon of Barnstaple and Rector of Dunchideock,<sup>12</sup> whose wife was a Cary of the Cockington branch of that family; and in the autumn of 1609 he left Devonshire to take up his

<sup>1</sup> St. Petrock's, Exeter, Par. Reg.

<sup>2</sup> p. 90.

<sup>3</sup> Izacke's Memorials of Exeter, p. 79.

<sup>4</sup> *Ex inf.* Hon. and Rev. Latimer Neville, Master of Magd. Coll. Cambridge.

<sup>5</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Register Cotton 79b. (Diocesan Registry at Exeter), and Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>8</sup> Contemporary copy of original letter among Family Evidences.

<sup>9</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>10</sup> Pat. Roll, 2 Jac. I, part 7, memb. 27.

<sup>11</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*





residence at Peterborough, where he had been collated to a prebendal stall in 1605 by his friend and patron Bishop Dove, in whose palace he lodged for the next two years, paying the Bishop for his diet at the rate of £20 *per annum*.<sup>1</sup>

During the years 1611 and 1613 he preached frequently at Court by the King's special appointment; and on 6 July 1612 he commenced Doctor of Divinity at Cambridge, having, to use his own expression, "*clerum'd* and kept his Arts" in the preceding June.<sup>2</sup>

At the beginning of 1616 King James presented him to the important rectory of Wigan in Lancashire, which had lapsed to the Crown on account of the minority of the patron; and there he seems to have spent a good deal of his time for many years. The parish of Wigan then consisted of twelve hamlets or townships, and the value of the rectory was about £570 a year. The parson was lord of the manor, and had been so ever since the Conquest; he received rent from every house in the town; and though the profits of his courts were but small in themselves, so small indeed that they were barely sufficient to pay the fees of the officers who kept them, they were of inestimable value to him as a means of preserving for his successors their ancient manorial rights. Dr. Bridgeman took infinite pains, and spent large sums of money, in recovering and as far as possible securing these rights for those who came after him; and the task he had set himself was one of considerable difficulty, for the Mayor and Corporation had been allowed seriously to encroach upon them for many years during the time of his immediate predecessors, and were now naturally reluctant to relinquish the advantages they had assumed; and moreover their example was an encouragement to others who had even less pretence of claim, and who apparently supposed that they were entitled to take possession of any unoccupied land upon which they wished to extend their buildings, or which it suited them to enclose; no small number of these attempts he managed to frustrate, but as soon as he had compelled the occupiers to confess themselves tenants at will to the parson for their encroachments, he usually dealt with them very leniently, and contented himself with little more than a nominal rent. A curious example of the kind of claim that he felt obliged by his duty to his successors to resist may perhaps be given here, though it occurred some years later, after his

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*





consecration as Bishop of Chester. On 26 July 1627 Robert Barrow, deputy mayor of Wigan, and Robert Mawdesley, clerk of the court of pleas, came to him to ask his permission for one of his (the Bishop's) own servants, Edward Russell, to sue another of them, William Brown, at the town's court of pleas in the Moot Hall; the cause of the dispute was a wager made between them, in which Brown had taken 5s. from Russell upon promise to pay him £10 if ever he (Russell) married the widow of Hugh Ford, late alderman of Wigan, which marriage had since taken place; the Bishop records that he refused to allow the suit to be prosecuted there until he had first consulted his counsel, because he doubted whether it might not prejudice the privilege of his church, which, by the constant confession of the town burgesses, had hitherto been that none of the parson's family might be arrested by the town officers, nor any other person within the parson's house or demaynes.<sup>1</sup>

Another controversy of a somewhat different character seems to have arisen between Dr. Bridgeman and his parishioners about three years after his appointment to Wigan as to who should be at the expense of providing bread and wine for the Holy Communion in the parish church; and it may be interesting to read his own account of what took place, as throwing light upon the customs of those times:

"M.<sup>d</sup> I convened the parishioners about providing for wine for the communion; and some of them objected prescription that the parson to find it at his own charge, alledging that tyme out [of] mind it had been so: and they brought in old John Bullock to prove it, who offered to lay his hand on a book and swear that during all his remembrance the parson had found the bread and wine at all communions at his own charge: I asked if he knew the parson provide it in Queen Mary's dayes? he answered yea: but for the parishioners [I asked] or only for the priests? Yea, quoth he, for all the parishioners: Nay, said I, for in Queen Maryes days they received no comunions publickly in the church, neither was it permitted the laity to receive the cup: whereupon the old false man replyed to me, to [thou] art to young to tell me what was done in Queen Mary's days; I will swear that here (standing in the old chancell) the parish were wont to drinck of the cup at comunions usually, and I myself have often done it here in publick, with many more, and all at the parson's charge; and he was ready to have kissed the book, before some told him he should take heed,

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Wigan Ledger, fo. 123.



for the Councell of Trent etc. had forbidden that the cup should be administered to the Layty, and this was generally observed in tyme of Popery. And because they had alledged custome for it, I told them good Lawes were made to take away unreasonable customes, and that the statute Law had provided that the Bread and Wine should be provided at the charge of the parish (as appears by the Rubrick in the Cōmunion Book), and that, by cañon made by the King and Church a° 1603, [they] had appointed the same in express words; and that the Cōmion Law did not charge the parson with it; Besides that they could have no such custome, for in time of popery (and particularly in Queen Mary's days) the layty did not receive the cup; and if there had been such a custome yet that interruption had broken it; but expressly Mrs. Christian Fleetwood, wife of parson Fleetwood, and Gregory Turner, parson of Sephton, late School mas<sup>r</sup> of Wigan (but now Justice of peace) were present and offered to depose that parson Fleetwood in his time did not find the wine at the monthly cōmuniions (whereof he was the first beginner) but caused the collections to be made in the time of the receaving amongst the cōmunicants, and when the cōmunion was ended he took the money and told it on the Table, and out of it he took so much as payd for the wine, and gave the rest to the churchwardens for the poor: But because this is sacriledge, for the cōmunicants give it as almes (and so the prayer is that God will accept our almes) I have forbidden that any collections shall be otherwise employed than on the poor, seeing the Law hath provided for the Wine, and because if only cōmunicants should bear the charge, they should be punished for their devotion and those who are more backward shall be eased, Therefor I now charge the churchwardens from henceforth to provide bread and wine at all communions, and nether have nor will provide the same from this day forward.

(Signed) Jo: BRIDGEMAN.<sup>1</sup>

That this steady determination not to be made responsible for charges which were not lawfully due from him was caused by no reluctance to spend his money freely in God's service is shown by his restoration in 1622 of the chancel of Wigan Church, part of which, before he took it in hand, was open to the churchyard. He began with what he calls the "old chancel," and flagged it and raised it a step higher than the body of the church; he also raised the "new chancel" five steps higher than the old, and the high altar two steps higher than all, which cost

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Wigan Ledger, fo. 24.



him 4*d.* a foot for all the stairs (or steps), and 6*d.* a yard for all the flagging, besides carriage and laying. John Wigan and the other carpenters had for felling, framing, and setting up the roof and doors &c., about which they spent the whole summer, above £50; and he paid for timber for it (which he bought in Kenyon wood of Mr. Holland) £32. He paid Michael Ford, the plumber, of Scoles, for three tons of lead for the covering, £28, but he was fain to buy a ton and more after Ford's death, for which and for his work in laying it he paid Laurence Langshaw £17; he paid Wm. Ormshaw for iron for the great east window and eight side windows . . . . He also provided for the east window some painted glass, and meant to have glazed it all at the same time with coloured glass of the several coats of the nobility of England, Scotland and Ireland, but because Sir Peter Leigh and Mr. Bradshaw did not go forward with their two side chapels he dared not glaze it till theirs were finished, lest it should be broken.<sup>1</sup> He had previously made considerable additions to his parsonage house, Wigan Hall, where he records having built the parlour and garden chambers, gallery, stairs, and private chapel, into which he also put a stained glass window.<sup>2</sup>

Some of the townsmen of Wigan were highly exasperated at Dr. Bridgeman's persistent and generally successful efforts to maintain the rights of his benefice; and one of them, Alexander Green by name, confessed to having said, "If he" (meaning Dr. Bridgeman) "had been hanged when he first came to Wigan it had been a good turne."<sup>2</sup> But these controversies were not suffered permanently to disturb the cordial relations that should exist between pastor and people, as is shown by the following correspondence, which took place in the spring of 1631, when we find the Bishop (as he was then) taking pains to preserve his parish from infection of the Plague, then raging in several parts of the country:—

*"My Lord's letter to the Maior and Com'unalty of Wigan touching the ffuere there in y<sup>e</sup> Plague time at Preston &c."*

"After my hearty commendations :

It hath pleased God to visit diverse places in this county of Lanc' so dangerously w<sup>th</sup> the plague of Pestilence, as I have oftimes seriously considered w<sup>th</sup> myself whether it were better for the com'on good to hold my ffayre at Wigan this Ascension day now following or

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Wigan Ledger, fo. 82.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* fo. 24.





forbid it. Some of you lately represented to me the necessities of the people, w<sup>ch</sup> are at this time to buy and sell cattell, and by a disappointment of this ffayre may be much prejudiced; but (on the other side) when I consider that the safety of their persons is much to be preferred before any commodity in their Estates, and that the extraordinary confluence of men from all parts to such a ffayre may bring some infection to the Towne, I have thought it fitter to forbid their meeting y<sup>en</sup> to endanger the inhabitants; and do rather choose to loose my present profit, than to bring that place into perill of utter undoing. And therefore I have resolved to cause proclamation to be made in diverse Markett Townes of this County, that there shall be no ffayre held in Wigan for this time, unless you shew me some greater reasons to alter my intention w<sup>th</sup>in these 3 days. And so, praying God to hold his hand of protection over you and to send you grace and peace, I rest your loving friend and Landlord,

[Jo. CESTRIEN:]

Lever, May 5, 1631.

To my loving tennants the Maior and Commonalty of Wigan."

*"The Wiganers Letter in answer:"*

"Our duties and service to your good Lo<sup>p</sup> ever p<sup>'</sup>missid. Whereas your good Lo<sup>p</sup> is pleased, of your good and pious respect for the safetie of us all and this poore Town where we live in this time of present danger, to forbid and restraine the ffaire to be holden here at Wigan at the Ascention day now next following: ffor w<sup>ch</sup> wee ourselves not onely in our perticuler estates, but generally the poore commonalty here, for this your care and providence are and shall be ever bound to pray for your Lo<sup>p</sup>, and do applaud and humbly desire your Lo<sup>p</sup> to go on w<sup>th</sup> your resolution by proclamation or otherwise in prohibiting of the same ffaire. So w<sup>th</sup> our prayers for your Lo<sup>p</sup>s prescrvation wee take our leaves and rest in all Obeaynce at your Lo<sup>p</sup>s service.

JAMES MARKLAND,  
deputie Maior.

ROB'T MAWDESLEY  
[and several others.]

Wigan, 6 Maii, 1631.

. . . . . To the right reverend father in God our honoured very good Lord John by God's providence, Lord B<sup>pp</sup> of Chester at Lever these d. d."<sup>1</sup>

In July 1637 Bishop Bridgeman gave another proof of his care for the temporal interests of his parishioners by his successful

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Wigan Ledger, fo. 151.



promotion of a petition from the inhabitants of Wigan to omit the name of their town from the ship-money writ, the number of the poor being so great, and the making of pots and pans in the town only providing small maintenance for the people.<sup>1</sup>

But all this belongs to the latter part of his life. In his earlier days he held for shorter or longer periods of time several benefices besides those already mentioned; but the only one likely to be of any interest to Staffordshire readers is the prebend of Eccleshall in the cathedral church of Lichfield, to which he was collated by Bishop Overall in 1616, and which he held till 1623,<sup>2</sup> having been chosen canon residentiary by the Chapter early in 1617<sup>3</sup>; he purchased the lease of a house of residence in Lichfield the year of his appointment to his prebendal stall.

Meanwhile he had been marked out by King James for higher preferment and more responsible duties; and on 3 May 1618, the Deanery of Windsor having become void by the death of Dr. Anthony Maxey, "when many sued for it, the King offered it the same day" to Dr. Bridgeman, his chaplain, "without any solicitation" on his part; but three days afterwards the Archbishop of Spalatro claimed a former promise from the King, made at his first coming into England; whereupon Dr. Bridgeman relinquished his title, and the King soon afterwards nominated him to the Bishopric of Chichester. Before he was chosen, however, the see of Chester became vacant by the translation of Bishop Thomas Morton to Lichfield, and Dr. Bridgeman was thereupon nominated to the Bishopric of Chester. He was consecrated at Lambeth on 9 May 1619 by George (Abbot) Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishops of Lincoln, Lichfield, Bath and Wells, and Rochester.<sup>4</sup> As the see of Chester was of no great yearly value for so important a charge, the new Bishop was allowed to retain his rectory of Wigan and one or two other of his ecclesiastical preferments.

Although he necessarily paid several visits to Chester in connection with his episcopal duties there, it was not till 1623 that he actually began to reside in the palace; and then he set to work in earnest to reform the abuses which had crept into the Cathedral establishment, and issued some very stringent injunctions

<sup>1</sup> State Papers, Dom., Charles I, *sub anno*.

<sup>2</sup> Willis's Survey of Cathedrals, Vol. I, pp. 440-1.

<sup>3</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>4</sup> Stubbs's "Registrum Sacrum Anglicanum," p. 92.



both to the clergy and to the other officials of that church, who certainly seem at that time to have needed a strong man over them.<sup>1</sup>

Matters were apparently not much better in the diocese at large; but in Jan. 1636-7 Bishop Bridgeman was able to report to the Archbishop of York that he had brought most of the churches in the diocese to uniformity and decency, whereon the laity had cheerfully bestowed many thousand pounds.<sup>2</sup> He himself added considerably to the Bishop's palace, which was in a very ruinous state, and built four houses for the men of the choir close by; he managed also to recover many of the ecclesiastical dues that had been almost lost in the time of his predecessors; but perhaps his most important work was the restoration and beautifying of the Cathedral, where we are told by one of his successors in the see that among other things "he built the Bp's stall in the Quire A<sup>o</sup>. 1635 & a fair new Pulpit right over against it a<sup>o</sup>. 1637 & gilded the organs in the Cathedral, & made a new sett of pipes in it; he raised the steps towards the Communion Table, & made the wall and partition there, and tooke in the two highest pillars at the end of it to enlarge the Quire; & he glazed the east window over it, with the story of the Annunciation, Nativity, Circumcision, & Presentation of our Saviour."<sup>3</sup> It is interesting in these days to record the fact that Bishop Bridgeman was the first to originate the holding of Divine service and public preaching in the nave of the Cathedral.

In the year 1631 Bishop Bridgeman sold his paternal estate of Greenway in Devonshire and some houses in Exeter which he had also inherited, having two years previously bought from Sir Ralph Assheton an estate at Great Lever in Lancashire, together with lands at Farnworth, Bolton and Lady Hall in the same county, which are still in the possession of his descendant the Earl of

<sup>1</sup> These injunctions were inscribed in one of the early Cathedral Registers, which lately fell into the hands of Mr. Geo. Neasham, of North Bailey, Durham, who has published full extracts from them in the 3rd volume of the "Cheshire Sheaf."

<sup>2</sup> State Papers, Dom., Charles I, *sub anno*.

<sup>3</sup> This short extract is quoted from one of the Baker MSS. preserved in the University Library at Cambridge (Vol. XXVIII, pp. 422-425), endorsed "From Sir William Dawes, bishop of Chester, by Dr. Fogg Prebendary there," and entitled "The Estate of the Diocess of Chester in the time of the R: R: Father in God John Bridgeman Ld: Bp: of Chester, who was consecrated on Sunday the 9: Maii 1619"; it is given in full in the History of the Church and Manor of Wigan, pp. 446-450.





Bradford; and Lever Hall was rebuilt by him. Pepys relates in his Diary a conversation with Mr. John Swinfeu, M.P. for Tamworth, who, "among other discourse of the rise and fall of familys, told us of Bishop Bridgeman, father of Sir Orlando, who lately hath bought a seat anciently of the Levers, and then the Ashtons; and so he hath in his great hall window, having repaired and beautified the house, caused four great places to be left for coates of armes. In one he hath put the Levers, with this motto, "Olim." In another the Ashtons, with this, "Heri." In the next, his own, with this, "Hodie." In the fourth, nothing but this motto, "Cras nescio cujus." (Nov. 10, 1662).<sup>1</sup> In 1634 he consecrated the little chapel attached to the Hall, dedicating it to the Holy Trinity.<sup>2</sup>

On 28 May 1636 the Bishop records the death of his loving and faithful wife after a long illness, which she bore with exemplary patience. She died in his palace at Chester, and was buried "in the cathedral church there between the two highest pillers at the east end of the church under the arch of the south syde, above the Quire, next to the old Consistory (w<sup>ch</sup> is now caled o' Ladyes chappel)."<sup>3</sup> He says that "in her sicknes she caused 30 poor old women to be clothed in black gowns & linen kerchiefs, all w<sup>ch</sup> went so clad befor her herse at the funerall."<sup>4</sup>

Two years later, in 1638, his son Orlando bought an estate at Bromborough in Cheshire; and the Bishop spent a considerable sum of money on his behalf in that and the following year in rebuilding the Hall there.<sup>5</sup>

Bishop Bridgeman was loyal to his sovereign, and like others who took the same line in those troublous days had to suffer for his loyalty. At the breaking out of the Civil War Lord Clarendon says: "The city of Chester was firm to the King by the virtue of the inhabitants and the interest of the bishop and Cathedral men"<sup>6</sup>; and when the King and his son the Prince of Wales came to Chester in September 1642, they were entertained by the Bishop at his own house for several days. He was ably supported by his son Orlando, then "a Lawyer of very good estimation," who not only encouraged the good men of Chester in their duty, but out of

<sup>1</sup> Pepys' Diary, ed. 1848, Vol. II, p. 65.

<sup>2</sup> "Notitia Cestriensis," Chetham Soc. Pub., Vol. XIX, p. 97.

<sup>3</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* The Bromborough estate was sold by Sir Orlando Bridgeman and his son John to Arthur Samwell Esq. in 1657 (Family Evidences).

<sup>6</sup> Clarendon's Hist. of the Rebellion, folio ed., Vol. II, p. 111.



his own "Credit and Estate, both which were very good, supplied them with whatsoever was necessary for their defence."<sup>1</sup> Bishop Bridgeman was fined £3,000 by the Parliament, and driven from his palace, the inmates of which, about forty in number, were reduced to great extremities during the siege of Chester in 1645, so that for some days before the surrender of the city they were entirely without either flour or corn. In 1650 the palace itself was seized by the usurping government, and sold with all its furniture for £1,059.<sup>2</sup>

On leaving Chester the aged Bishop retired to Morton Hall, near Oswestry, in Shropshire, which belonged to his son Orlando in right of his wife, the heiress of the Kynastons of that place: there he passed the remaining years of his life in reading and devotion; and there at last he died. He was buried on 11 November 1652 in the neighbouring church of Kinnerley,<sup>3</sup> where a great number of the clergy attended his body to the grave, and Dr. George Griffith, afterwards Bishop of St. Asaph, preached a sermon at his funeral.<sup>4</sup>

A blue stone was placed over his grave with this dateless inscription, "*Hic jacet sepultus Johannes Bridgeman,*" which was replaced in 1657 by a brass with the same legend, to which the words "*Episcopus Cestriensis*" are now added. His son Orlando sent down a handsome stone to cover the grave, but such was the state of the times that it was deemed inadvisable to inscribe anything upon it. In later and quieter days, however, his great-grandson, Sir John Bridgeman, raised a monument to his memory against the north wall of the chancel of Kinnerley Church with this inscription:

<sup>1</sup> Clarendon's Hist. of the Rebellion, folio ed., Vol. II, p. 111.

<sup>2</sup> "Notitia Cestriensis," Chetham Soc. Pub., Vol. VIII, p. 11.

<sup>3</sup> MS. Shropshire Parish Registers, Vol. I, p. 105. This work consists of three MS. folio volumes containing extracts from the registers of many of the parishes in the county of Salop. They were transcribed for Mr. William Mytton, the well-known Shropshire antiquary, and were formerly preserved among the Halston MSS., but are now in the possession of the Rev. Ernest Bridgeman at Blymhill Rectory. The extracts from the Oswestry registers, out of which the record of the Bishop's burial is taken, commence with an earlier date than that of any register book now existing there. The transcript runs as follows: ". . . . Bridgeman Lord Bishop of Chester who died at Mortin within y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>is</sup>h of Oswestry was buried at Kynnerley y<sup>e</sup> xi<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1652."

<sup>4</sup> Family Evidences, being a correspondence between Mr. Webster, Rector of Kneockin, and Sir John Bridgeman, Bart., the Bishop's great-grandson, with reference to a monumental inscription to be placed over the Bishop's grave.



“M.S.

Reverendi admodum Viri JOHANNIS BRIDGEMAN Episcopi Cestriensis Qui Iniquitate temporum quibus factio et Usurpatio valebant ab Episcopali Sede depulsus ad Aedes filii Sui apud Morton Se contulit Ubi latens Pietati Precibusque Vacabat et tandem Suaviter obdormiebat in Christo Cujus Reliquiæ mortales Sub marmore juxta hanc Parietem locato in Resurrectionem Supremo die futuram et omnibus Deo per fidem inservientibus Gloriosam Recondantur.

In Memoriam Proavi Sui Optime meriti

Hoc monumentam Posuit

JOHANNES BRIDGEMAN de BLODWELL

BARONETTUS

21 Die Decembris Anno Domini 1719.”

His family vault is shown on the plan of Chester Cathedral in King's "Vale Royal of England,"<sup>1</sup> with the following inscription: "The buriall place of Docter Bridgman late Bishop of Chester, wherein lieth his wife Elizabeth the pattern of piety and miror of virtue and of Mr. Dove Bridgman her second some therein interred." At the end of the inscription there is a shield bearing the Bishop's own arms impaled with those of his wife. From what has been stated above, however, it will be seen that his remains were not allowed to lie, as he had doubtless intended, in this family vault in his own episcopal city.

As has been already mentioned, loyalty was one of Bishop Bridgeman's most marked characteristics; and, like many others of his time, he carried his views on the Divine Right of Kings to an extent that would seem almost strained at the present day. He was devotedly attached to his early patron, King James, whose death he felt severely; and he was equally true to his successor, King Charles, though the relations between them were much less intimate. It was the custom in those days for those about the Court to present annual gifts to the King, and to receive presents from him in return; and in the Bishop's Private Ledger there occurs a list of the plate he possessed in 1640, among which are a large number of silver gilt bowls which had been given to him from time to time by James I. and Charles I, all of which were sold in 1643 to pay for "hose & shooes & clothes for English Irish souldiers who came from Ireland to Chester to help the King aginst the rebels in Cheshire"

<sup>1</sup> Folio ed. of 1656, Part II, p. 26.





Bishop Bridgeman was essentially a scholar and a gentleman. His manners were gentle and courteous; and though of somewhat grave deportment he was not devoid of humour. In the words of Prince, in his "Worthies of Devon,"<sup>1</sup> "he was as ingenuous as grave, and a great patron of those gifts in others he was the happy owner of himself." He was not only careful to give his own children a good education at school and college, and to help his poorer relations in their acquirements of learning, but, as Prince observes, "he every year maintained, more or less, hopeful young men at the University and preferred such as were proficient." He was a kind and judicious father, and seems to have been particularly happy in his relations with his sons in after life; and none of his daughters living to grow up, he adopted two of his nieces, who came to live with him and were married from his house.

In his theological opinions he was what would now be called a moderate high-churchman, as appears by the accusation of William Prynne, who charges him in 1641 with having erected "divers stone Altars in his Diocese, one in the Cathedral at Chester, used in times of Popery, which hee caused to be digged up out of the ground where it was formerly buried"; and he "ordered all the ministers in Chester, not only to read prayers, but likewise to preach, in their hoods and surplices."<sup>2</sup> But though a strong upholder of authority in Church as well as in State, he appears to have been lenient and forbearing in his dealings with the ultra-Puritans and Nonconformists, and was wont to use much reasoning and persuasion before proceeding more strenuously against them; but when at length obliged to act, he seldom swerved from his purpose, and did not hesitate to use strong measures, if he thought them needful, to bring them into submission. Brook, in his "Lives of the Puritans,"<sup>3</sup> gives a curious instance of what he calls an act of "episcopal superstition in perfection" on his part as exemplified in the temporary suspension of Knutsford Chapel: "A gentleman of Knutsford," he says, "being fond of sport, caused a bear passing along the street to be led into the chapel. The bishop no sooner hearing of the chapel being thus profaned by the bear than he suspended it from

<sup>1</sup> p. 100.

<sup>2</sup> "The Antipathie of the English Lordly Prelacie both to Regall Monarchy and Civill Unity," Part II, p. 291.

<sup>3</sup> Vol. II, p. 293; treating of Paget's Defence.



being used for public worship, and it remained a long time under his lordship's ecclesiastical censure," no doubt until they were willing to have it purified.

He was a man of considerable means, at all events until the Parliamentary Government deprived him of so much of his property; but he was ready to spend his money upon good objects; and we find him giving a donation of £500, a large sum for those days, towards the re-building of St. Paul's Cathedral. He was hospitable to rich and poor alike, and was in the habit of entertaining largely at his palace both the clergy and the laity of his diocese.

He was unquestionably a man of energy and perseverance, especially in his younger days before he was weakened by sickness and infirmity, and seldom relinquished his purpose without attaining his object, though he usually pursued it with caution, charity and self-restraint. This is shown alike in the management of his private affairs, in the recovery of his Church's rights, and in his dealings with the refractory elements of his diocese. And the family motto, whether adopted by him or by some later member of his house, was by no means unsuitable to his own character, "*Nec cunctando nec temere agendo*," or, as it is generally used in a more abbreviated form, "*Nec temere nec timide*."

Bishop Bridgeman reckoned among his intimate personal friends two of the most eminent men of his time, Archbishop Laud and Lord Strafford; and there are many interesting letters from both of them preserved among the Earl of Bradford's Family documents, several of which are given in full in the "History of the Church and Manor of Wigan." The Bishop's friendship with Laud seems to have begun when as fellow-chaplains to King James they attended their master to Scotland. In one of his letters to his old colleague, written from Fulham House 12 August 1633, Laud, then Bishop of London, concludes with the following historical postscript: "My L<sup>ds</sup> grace of Cant. dyed upon Sunday, August y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>, and it hath pleased his Ma<sup>ty</sup> to name me for his successor."<sup>1</sup>

It may be interesting to quote another letter of Laud's to Bishop Bridgeman, written about five years later, as illustrating a more homely and perhaps less well-known aspect of the great churchman's character and pursuits:

<sup>1</sup> Original letter, among Family Evidences.



“S in X̄po.

My very good L<sup>d</sup>,

I am heartily glad to heare of your health & to see your sonne safely returned hither, and very glad also to see by him that the place w<sup>ch</sup> he hath gotten in those parts gives him so much content. I heartily pray your L<sup>p</sup> to be confident that in whatsoever I may farther serve him, or yourselfe, noe man shall be more ready then I shall bee.

My Lo: 'tis true I had a mischance w<sup>th</sup> the horse w<sup>ch</sup>, I thank you, you sent mee about three yeares since. But I did not thinke either your L<sup>p</sup> or your sonne should have knowne itt. The truth is hee was lost in the sleepe disease, and I was like to have lost two or three more w<sup>th</sup> him. And now I thank your L<sup>p</sup> you have supplied me w<sup>th</sup> another, and, as your sonne tells me, of the same sire. I can but thanke you; & the horse lookes extreamly well. When I have tryed him I am sure I shall give you more thankes, because my groomer w<sup>ch</sup> hath rid him tells me his pace is good and the horse himselfe is easily borne. I see your L<sup>p</sup> is resolved that I shall neither look into my stable, nor ride upon the way, but you will give mee occasion to remember your kindnes, w<sup>ch</sup>, if it please God I live, I will remember either in yorselfe or your sonne. So to God's blessed p'tection I leave you & rest

Your L<sup>ps</sup> very loving frend and Brother,

W. CANT.

Croydon, Aug. 27, 1638.”<sup>1</sup>

A year or two later the Bishop's son, Orlando Bridgeman, who had just become Steward of the Liberties of the Archbishop of Canterbury, appears to have sent a further communication to his father with respect to the state of the Primate's stables, as we perceive by the following letter:

“S. in X̄po.

My very good Lo:

I perceave by bringing your sonne into an office soe neare me I have brought a Blabb into my house. For I cannot have a horse dye but hee gives knowledge of itt to your L<sup>pp</sup>, and then by and by you send mee another. I am very glad you are soe well furnisht; but I would not have you empty your owne Stable to fill myne; especially att this tyme, when you must have use of a good one your selfe to come upp, & when you are here, to ride to parliament. Howsoever, I hope I shall see you shortly; and then I will thanke you for your kindeus; and shall bee able to spare you this horse w<sup>ch</sup> you have

<sup>1</sup> Family Evidences.





given mee to ride to parliamt<sup>t</sup> if you please to save the charges of bringing upp another. How you are fitted for a lodging when you come I know not. But here is a neighbor's house of myne at Lambeth, very convenient, w<sup>ch</sup> you may have wholley to your selfe if you will. And I pray send mee word with as much speede as you can whether you like it or noe; for itt will cost you little, and you may goe over y<sup>e</sup> water with mee in my Barge. See to God's blessed protection I leave you & rest

Yo<sup>r</sup> L<sup>ps</sup> very loving friend and Brother,

W. CANT.

Lambeth, March 10th, 1639[40].

L. B. Chester."<sup>1</sup>

One more letter from Archbishop Laud on an entirely different subject, written about twelve months earlier, may here be inserted :

"S. in X<sup>po</sup>.

My very good Lo:

Your last L<sup>res</sup> were only an accompt that you had settled the Busines of the Mayor of Chester; and I am very glad 'tis all quiett; and hope the Deane will have more care to keepe things orderly, and in peace.

My Lo: all the occasion I have for writing to you att this tyme is to lett you know that, to satisfye his Ma<sup>ties</sup> desires, I am once more come under the Presse; and a Booke<sup>2</sup> I here send you. I have been faine to steale Broken tynes to make itt in. And therefore if, when you reade itt, you finde itt a Broken Discourse, you will be the readyer to p'don both itt and mee. And this I assure you, I do not beleeve that ever anie mau was putt upon such a Busines with soe many Busy and Interrupted thoughts about him. Well! here you have it; and I am desirous som friends should see itt, since many enemyes will. So to God's blessed p'tection I leave you, and rest

Yo<sup>r</sup> L<sup>ps</sup> very Loving friend and Brother,

W. CANT.

Lambeth, febr. 20, 1638[9].

Lo: Bishop of Chester."

<sup>1</sup> Family Evidences.

<sup>2</sup> Family Evidences. The book alluded to was in all probability "A Relation of the Conference between Wm. Larvd . . . . and Mr. Fisher the Jesuite, with an Answer to such Exceptions as A. C. takes against it" (Lond. 1639, folio), a copy of which appears in a MS. "catalogue of the Lord Bishop of Chester's Bookes in his study in the Palace, taken 29<sup>o</sup> S<sup>bris</sup>, 1644," in possession of the Earl of Bradford.



One of the letters which the Bishop received from the unfortunate Lord Strafford we may also append, written shortly after the latter's appointment as Lord Deputy of Ireland; it is dated 11 Jan. 1632-3, and expresses his intention of taking Chester on his way there:

"My very good Lord,

I have by many of your noble invitements been justly bounde to acknowledge your respectt to me, w<sup>ch</sup> shall be laid up in me as true remembrances of the returne w<sup>ch</sup> is due unto them, and expresse themselves to you in any occasion I may have to serve you. Nor must I only give you thes thanks for myself, but for my cosin Radcliffe too, who tells me how great favour your lo<sup>p</sup> hath afforded him allsoe. I am now the beginning of the next weeke to leave this place, w<sup>ch</sup>, in hope to serve his Ma<sup>ty</sup> to his gracious acceptance on the other side, I doe chearfully, w<sup>ch</sup> I assure you noe earthly prefermentt how greate or profitable so ever could have dun; and I shall passe into this imployment w<sup>th</sup> a resolution finally (if please God spare me life) to take up my last rest in this worlde in my own cuntry, and there in my old adge (if it be his pleasure) magnifie and bless his great name for all and in all, in peace and silence, and thes are the thoughts and resolutions I shall take for my company over. My stay in London is uncertaine, and consequently my cumming to Chester, for I am to have my instructions and all other the complements soe high a chardge requires from my Maister and his miuisters above, and what time that may take up you knowe I cannot judge; but my lo: I will waite upon you at Chester, and desire to strike a ferme<sup>r</sup> freindshipp w<sup>th</sup> you, such as may confidently passe betwixt us hereafter, how removed soever in habitation, in the strength whereof beleeve me I shall ever give you the unfained and sure tokens of my being yo<sup>r</sup> lo<sup>p</sup>s faithfull freind and servantt,

WENTWORTH."<sup>1</sup>

Bishop Bridgeman seems to have given him a princely welcome when he did arrive at Chester; for there is an item in his accounts for that year of £100 for entertaining Lord Wentworth, the Earl of Castlehaven, and others, at Chester for four days.

Two or three years before he had been receiving another celebrated guest; for among his disbursements in 1630 there occurs a sum of £66. 13s. 4*l*. for "enterteynmt<sup>t</sup> of Dutchess of Tremulle at Chester." This was Charlotte, Duchesse de la Tremouille, the daughter of William of Nassau, Prince of Orange,

<sup>1</sup> Original Letter, among Family Evidences.



and the mother of the famous Charlotte de la Tremouille, Countess of Derby, the heroic defender of Lathom House. The Duchess arrived at Chester on 18 Sept., and the gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood determined to give her a royal reception. "There came to Chester," says a contemporary writer, "being on a Saturday, the Duchess of Tremoyle in France, and mother-in-law to the Lord Strange, and many other great estates: and all the gentry of Cheshier, Flintshier, and Denbighshier, went to meet her at Hoole Heath, with the Earl Derby, being at least six hundred men; all the gentlemen of the artelery-yard, lately erected at Chester, met her in Cow Lane in very stately manner, all with great white and blew fithers, and went before her chariot to the bishop's pallas, and making a yard let her throw the midest, and they gave her three volleys of shot, and so returned to their yard; also the maior and aldermen, in their best gowns and aparel, were on a stage in the Eastgate Street to entertagn her."<sup>1</sup>

Several years later this lady's son-in-law, James Lord Strange, afterwards 7th Earl of Derby, in a letter to the Bishop of 7 Nov. 1638, alludes to the generous hospitality he had lately received from him at Chester, and begs him to send by the bearer a present he had had from him, which he prizes highly, and which had been accidentally left behind when he took his departure; this present was a book of printed pictures, entitled *Venationes ferarum, avium, piscium, &c.*<sup>2</sup>

A letter which Bishop Bridgeman received from the Bishop of Derry at the beginning of 1637 shews us that Bishop Bramhall was another of his friends; and it is further interesting as shewing how a bishop's blessing was sought and valued by the laity of those days. It runs as follows:

"Right Reverend my honoured Lord,

No man rejoiceth more to heare of your Lordshippe's health and prosperity then my self, and haveing so fitt an opportunity I could not slippe it to give your Lordship notice of my returne to Dublin, where I shall be ready the greatest part of this next yeare to doe your Lordshippe service by executinge such commands as you are pleased to impose upon me. My Lord, this gentleman, Sr Beverley

<sup>1</sup> Memoirs of James Earl of Derby, Chetham Soc. Pub., Vol. LXVI, p. xxxv.

<sup>2</sup> Family Evidences. The volume was doubtless "*Venationes Ferarum, Avium, Piscium, Pugne Bestiarum,*" &c., by Jo. Stradanus, edited by N. Visscher, and published at Antwerp in 1580.





Newcomb, had so good success after your last benediction, that he seeks againe purposely to have your hands imposed once more upon him. So w<sup>th</sup> my humble respects to your lordshippe I remaine,

Your Lordshippe's loving brother  
and faithfull servaunte,

Dubl: Jan. 21st, 1636[7].

JOH: DERENSIS.<sup>1</sup>

There are several ancient portraits of Bishop John Bridgeman in existence, three of which are in the possession of his descendant and representative, the Earl of Bradford; of these two represent him in his episcopal robes, one being at Weston and the other at Castle Bromwich in Warwickshire. There is also a picture of him in episcopal robes in the Bishop's Palace at Chester, and another in the possession of Mrs. Henry Bridgeman, of the Close, Lichfield. There are only two portraits known of him in earlier life before his consecration as bishop, one, on panel, at Weston, and the other, somewhat larger, on canvas, in the possession of the Rev. Ernest Bridgeman at Blymhill Rectory. These last, which are similar in other respects, are both dated: "Æ<sup>o</sup> 40.—1616"; in one corner is a shield with the Bridgeman arms impaling those of Helyar, and in the other a quaint device representing the world in darkness below and the light of Heaven above, with a reference to S. Luke xvi, 26 ("Between us and you there is a great gulf fixed"), and the legend: "*Gratia dei Pons homini*," which may be rendered either "The grace of God is a bridge to man" or "By the grace of God (I am) Bridge-man." The Earl of Bradford has also at Weston a picture, on canvas, of Mrs. Bridgeman, the Bishop's wife, with a similar shield of arms and dated the same year. Portrait painting was less expensive in those days; for the Bishop records among his disbursements for 1616, "It. for my wife's picture drawing and my own 55s.;" for 1619, "My picture in bishops robes 35s.;" for 1620, "My picture 35s.;" and for 1638, "Bought . . . pictures of Mr. Peak, Orlando' 2£, myne own twice drawn 4£."<sup>2</sup>

Bishop Bridgeman had a numerous family, of whom but five lived to grow up. The successive births of his children are thus recorded by himself:<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Family Evidences. On the Restoration of King Charles II Bishop Bramball became Archbishop of Armagh.

<sup>2</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*



1. "William my first son borne at Dunchideok in Devonshire 4 Febr. 1606 [1606-7]. He dyed & was buried in Wigan Chancel 26 July 1616."

2. "The 30<sup>th</sup> day of January Anno 1608 [1608-9] being monday about a quarter or half an hour befo' 12 of the clock in the night was my second soune Orlando Bridgeman borne. O Lord God I beseech thee make him thy faythful servant & graunt him life so long as may most glorify thee. He was baptized in S<sup>t</sup> George's church in Exeter 2 dayes after by M<sup>r</sup> More. My uncle Jasp Bridgemā & M<sup>r</sup> Edward Gibbons were his god-fathers & M<sup>rs</sup> Elacot godmother."

3. "My third soune Dove Bridgeman was borne on wednesday the 21<sup>th</sup> of March 1609 [1609-10] about 3 of the clock in the afternoone, or a litle befo' 3 in B<sup>p</sup> Dove's pallace in Peterborough in the chamber over heven gates. O Lord blesse him & let him live & dye in thy fayth & favor. Christened 23 of March, M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Dove & M<sup>r</sup> Tho: Warner godfathers & M<sup>rs</sup> Marget Dove the B<sup>rs</sup> wife godmother, in Peterborow minster, by M<sup>r</sup> Johnson the chaunto<sup>r</sup> in the midst of the Quire, befo<sup>r</sup> the B<sup>rs</sup> seat ther."

4. "On tuesday a litle after 7 of the clock at night being 3<sup>d</sup> of Septemb: [1611] my fourth soune was borne & being very weak was presently christened John. M<sup>r</sup> Malcolme Johnsō M<sup>r</sup> Anthony Green M<sup>rs</sup> Dorathe Wager godfathers &c. God blesse him w<sup>th</sup> all graces & continue him for ever in his favor & love.—He dyed a month after or therabouts & was buried on michelmas day in the minster at Peterborow befor the dean's seat in the Quire ther."

5. "On friday night between the hours of one & two of the clock at midnight, being the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 1612 my daughter Elizabeth Bridgeman was borne & christened the monday after: The Lady omne & M<sup>rs</sup> Forrest godmothers & old M<sup>r</sup> miles forrest godfather. I pray God blesse her & keep her still in his fayth fear & favor.—She dyed at Stangrond on Ascensiō Eve may 1613 & was buried ascensiō Day in Peterb: minster next my soune John befor my seat."

6. "On Fryday the xj<sup>th</sup> march 1613[-14] my second daughter Elizabeth Bridgeman was borne, in my house in Peterburgh, about a quarter of an hour at most after ten a clock in the forenoone, & baptized in the Quire of the cathdrall church ther 15<sup>o</sup> march 1613 [-14]: M<sup>r</sup> william Reynell (?) Counselor being godfather & M<sup>rs</sup> Frauncis Dove & M<sup>rs</sup> Anne Dove the Archdeacon's wife god-mothers. Pray God blesse her w<sup>th</sup> his Spirit, & make her his



faithfull servant to her Life's end.—She dyed at westminster 13 May 1624 & was buried in S<sup>t</sup> margret's chauncel at the corner on north side."

7. "On sunday morning being the 22<sup>th</sup> of Octob: 1615, almost half an hour after one a-clock in the morning my fift sonne was borne, in the parlor at my house in Peterburgh: on Wednesday following being the 25<sup>th</sup> day he was christened in the new font w<sup>ch</sup> I built w<sup>th</sup> my own charge in the body of the Cathedrall church of Peterb: (for befo' that tyme they alwayes christened in a bason). This new font, the Bishop of Peterburgh (being attended w<sup>th</sup> the Archdeacon and Quire who fetchd him w<sup>th</sup> processiō to the font singing the 84 psalme) did then solemnely consecrat w<sup>th</sup> a very pathetical prayr y<sup>t</sup> God would blesse all those y<sup>t</sup> at any tyme should be baptized therin, & those y<sup>t</sup> brought any to be baptized. And after he had so dedicated it my sonne was christened by M<sup>r</sup> Wager the B<sup>ps</sup> chaplen & named Henry. Thomas, Lord B<sup>p</sup> of peterb: & S<sup>r</sup> Humphrey Orme Knyht being his Godfathers, & Eliz: wife of D<sup>r</sup> Whaley his godmother. God almyhty blesse him & make him Live & dye his true faythfull servant."

8. "The 3<sup>d</sup> day of January 1616[-17] on friday morning, early, a litle befor two of the Clock my 3<sup>d</sup> daughter was born in Wigan Parsonage in the Chamber over the Parlor: And was christened in Wigan church on Saturday following. M<sup>r</sup> Augustine Wilbore God father M<sup>rs</sup> Barrow M<sup>rs</sup> Jane Chaderton God mothers who gave her the name of Mary.—She dyed in Wigan 30 of May 1617 whiles I attended on the King at Edenburgh in Scotland & is buried nere her brother William in the place of the decayed Chauncell in Wigan. The Lord be thanked y<sup>t</sup> gave & took her."

9. "Decemb: 15: 1618 upon Tuesday night between the houres of one & two, my sonne James Bridgeman was borne at wigan, & christened in Wigan church the sunday following, *Sponsoribus* John wrightingtō Esq: W<sup>m</sup> Leigh pson of Standish & M<sup>rs</sup> wilbore. The Lord blesse him to the glory of his eternal ma<sup>s</sup>, that he may truly serve him as his faythfull servant here, & rest w<sup>th</sup> him in peace & happines in the world to come."

10. "*Die Sabathi 15<sup>o</sup> Januarij [1619-20] paulo ante horā scēculā pomeridianā Wiganiæ in camera regia, natus est filius meus Carolus sic nōātus in baptismo sequenti die dominico; Sponsorib<sup>us</sup> fratre meo Edwardo et Augustino wilbore, et sorore mea Lydia Snel: Benedic ei domine et tibi hic seruiat fideliter et constanter et tandem tecū possit in eternū regnare p̄ J̄sum*





*Christū.* “*Filius meus Carolus Bridgeman obiit ap<sup>d</sup> Lerer 5<sup>o</sup> August: 1632: Sepultus in cancella mea in ecclia de Bolton 6: Aug: in Australi angulo. Dñs dedit, dñs abstulit, benedictū sit nomen dñi.*”

11. “*Junij: 3<sup>o</sup>: Anno: 1621: natus est filius meus Richardus, (in domo Mr<sup>i</sup> Maddox prope molculinū aquaticū Westmonasterij, dū essemus ibm in parliam<sup>to</sup>) fere semihora ante decimā noctu: Et die 7<sup>o</sup> sequenti Baptizatus in templo s<sup>c</sup>i Gregori Westmonaster. Sponsoribus deo et ecclia, D<sup>o</sup> Richardo Parry Episcopo Assaphen, et Thomā Morton Episcopo Coven’ et Lichf: et uxore Richardi Serchfield Episcopi Bristol: Benedic ei deus, et sit tibi in aternū fidelis servus. Amen.*”

12. “*Nata mihi filia Elianora Wiganie viā semihorā post 5<sup>am</sup> pomeridianā die Lunæ novembr: 18: Anno: 1622: Et eadem septimana die s<sup>c</sup>lt Sabati 23: nov: Baptizata in ecclia parochiali de Wigan: Sponsoribus fratre meo Thoma Bridgema’, Dnā Elianora Rigby de Horrocks, et Mr<sup>i</sup> Augustini Wilbore uxore. Benedicat ei deus, et hic et in aternū chrō inscribat.—Obijt die Sabati: 14 Decemb: 1622: et sepulta est, prope Mr<sup>m</sup> Sherlock curatū meū et Lewis Williams servū meū Wiganie die Dñico p<sup>r</sup>. sequenti in veteri sive inferiori Cancellā, corū sedile meo, prope mediū. Dñs dedit et dñs abstulit, sit nomen Dñi benedictū.*”

Who lyeth here interr’d livd not so long; as to obtayne at all the vse of tongue; Then to supply both want of tongue & breath; learn hence the Legend of her life & death.

She was a Blossome that too soon was Blasted; a flower whose beautye not a full moneth lasted.

A glorious Glimpse of Lightning, though extended, by Splendor farr, yet in a moment ended.

Of orient Luster a most precious Jemme, but only shewen & then put vp agen.

Her Cradle was her Grave, the Font her Tombe; Borne, Baptizd, Buryed, is her stories summe.

A[ugustine] W[ilbore].”

13. “*Natus mihi filius Mathæus Bridgemā: in palatio Cestrie die veneris (horā sonante undecimā diurnā) 23 die mensis Julij 1624. Postea s<sup>c</sup>lt die lunæ 26 Julij, Baptizatus in ecclia S<sup>c</sup>e Werburgæ ap<sup>d</sup> eccliam cathedralē concionante Mr<sup>o</sup> Thoma Bridge, Sponsoribus D<sup>re</sup> ffoster p<sup>b</sup>endario et Thoma Dod Archidiacono Richmond, et . . King uxore D<sup>ris</sup> King. Benedic illi dñe deus, et tibi scribat fidelē in hac vita, et tecū aternā fruatur felicitate post hanc vitā.—Obijt die murtis 3 Aug: 1624, Cestrie: & is buryed in the upper end of the cathedrall church in the quire, in the south angle, nere along by the stone seates.*”



14. "My sonne Edward Bridgeman was borne in the pallace at Chester in the great chamber of the tower, about a quarter of an hour after eight a clock on fryday night: 3 Sept. 1630: & Baptized in my Chappel ther on Sunday: 5 Sept. The chauncelor M<sup>r</sup> Tho: Stofford, & M<sup>r</sup> John Ley prebendary being his godfathers, & M<sup>s</sup> Eliano<sup>r</sup> Bridgeman (wife to my brother Edward of Sanky) godmother. O Lord blesse him w<sup>th</sup> all graces w<sup>ch</sup> may most sett forth thy glory & further his salvatiō in Jesus Christ: Amen Amen Amen." "*Filius meus Edwardus Bridgeman obiit Cestriæ 2 Octobris 1632. Sepultus in choro Cathedralis ibm, prope fratrem suū Matheū 4 octob: Benedict' dñs.*"

15. "My daughter Anne Bridgeman was borne on Sunday night 12 Maij 1633; half a quarter of an hour after twelve a clock at midnight in my house on the mill bank in Westminster: she was baptized in S<sup>t</sup> Margarets church in Westminster on fryday 17 Maij 1633. *Sponsoribus* D<sup>r</sup> Bates prebendary ther, & the Lady Aleph & M<sup>s</sup> Hopton. God blesse her w<sup>th</sup> many graces, to his glory & her salvatiō that she may be his servant here & a saint w<sup>th</sup> him hereafter. Amen Amen Amen. She dyed . . . 1634 & is buried by her sister in S<sup>t</sup> Margrets Church in Westminster."

This account of Bishop John Bridgeman's life may fitly be concluded with the final words of the index to his "Private Ledger," from which so many quotations have been made. They are his own testimony to his wife's memory after her death: "A true good woman in all respects. Devout towards God, loving to her husband, charitable to the poor, provident in her house, courteous humble modest bountiful, & as much lamented by all sorts as ever any in that country these many yeares. Blessed be thy name o god, who gavest her to me, & by her many gracious & hopefull children, whom I beseech thee to blesse w<sup>th</sup> their posterity to the glory of thy merey, the good of thy church and this commonweal, & the salvation of all o<sup>r</sup> soules through Christ Jesus o<sup>r</sup> Lord. Amen. Amen."

Of the five sons of Bishop John Bridgeman who lived to reach man's estate, the second, Dove, who was so named after his father's friend, Bishop Dove of Peterborough, went up to Magdalene College, Cambridge, in 1624, and being originally intended for the Law was entered as a student at Gray's Inn in 1627, where he continued till January 1629, and then travelled beyond the sea with Sir Robert Carr (afterwards Earl of Ancram), ambassador to



the King of Bohemia.<sup>1</sup> He took his degree of M.A. in 1631, and having received holy orders was collated to a prebendal stall at Chester in 1634, and became Rector of Barrow, and also of Tattenhall, both in Cheshire, in 1635. Dove Bridgeman is spoken of as a young man of great promise; but his career was cut short by a "burning fever," of which he died on 17 September 1637, and was buried in his mother's grave in Chester Cathedral.<sup>2</sup> He was married on 17 October 1635, in the chapel of the Bishop's palace at Chester, to Frances Bennet, of St. Oswald's Parish, Chester, by whom he had, with a younger son Francis, who was born 21 August 1637, and died in September of the following year, an only surviving son Charles Bridgeman, who was born in Prebendary Essex Clarke's house in the Abbey Court, Chester, on 1 July 1636: he went up to Oxford in 1655, as a fellow-commoner of Queen's College,<sup>3</sup> and took his degree of B.A. in 1659; he became Rector of Ibstock in Leicestershire in 1660, and Rector of Llanrhaiadr in Denbighshire in 1665, having been made Archdeacon of Richmond in 1664.<sup>4</sup> Wood says that his "breeding in grammar and trivial learning had been at Harlem beyond the seas, where under his name was published in 1653 *Carmen contra precipua hujus sæculi vitia*, printed on one side of a broad sheet of paper."<sup>5</sup> He died unmarried on 26 November 1678, and was buried in the chapel of Queen's College, Oxford, where there is the following inscription to his memory:—"Sub spe reditus ad vitam Caroli Bridgeman A. Magistri Novembris 26: Anno Dni 1678 denati reliquie infra reponuntur." Bishop Bridgeman and his son Orlando settled a jointure of £20 *per annum* upon Dove Bridgeman's widow,<sup>6</sup> who afterwards married Dr. John Hacket, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry.

Henry Bridgeman, the third surviving son of the Bishop, was entered as a commoner at Oriel College, Oxford, in 1629, and took his B.A. degree there in 1632. He was elected Fellow of Brasenose on 6 December 1633,<sup>7</sup> and took his master's degree in 1635. In the following year he went on his travels into Scotland, Denmark, and North Germany. He resigned his fellowship in 1639,<sup>8</sup> on his acceptance of the rectory of Oddington near Oxford, which must

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Foster's Alumni Oxonienses, 1500 to 1714.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> Wood's Athene Oxonienses, Fasti, Vol. II, p. 148.

<sup>6</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>7</sup> Wood's Ath. Ox., Vol. II, p. 1167.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*





have been his first preferment, as he was not then quite twenty-four years of age. He soon afterwards became Rector of Barrow in Cheshire, and also of Bangor Monachorum, being admitted to the latter benefice in January 1640: and on 28 May 1648 he was collated to the Archdeaconry of Richmond. Wood tells us that "in the time of the Rebellion he did his Majesty faithful service, and therefore was a sharer in afflictions, as other Loyalists were, occasioned by the violent proceedings of the Presbyterians."<sup>1</sup> He was chaplain to the brave and unfortunate James Stanley, 7th Earl of Derby, whom he accompanied to Bolton-le-Moors, and was present at his execution there on 15 October 1651. A historian of that period, in speaking of this cruel scene, says: "There was, however, one chaplain who continued to the last such dutiful and affectionate attendance as circumstances allowed him, and, according to all or most of the accounts, was recognized by the Earl as being seated on horseback among the troopers, and received from him last remembrances."<sup>2</sup> The Earl of Derby just before his execution attempted to make a speech, which was interrupted; and the soldiers, fearing a rescue, dispersed the multitude. Whilst the executioner was waiting for the block, Lord Derby turned and bowed to Mr. Bridgeman, saying:—"They have brought me hither too soon; the block is not ready for me, Mr. Bridgeman. Tell your brother I take it as a great mercy of God that I am brought hither, for I might have dyed in the midst of a battel, and have not dyed so well; for now I have time to make my peace with God."<sup>3</sup> Mr. Bridgeman was ejected from both his benefices; and by an order of the Committee of Plundered Ministers, dated 22 July 1646, Katherine, wife of Henry Bridgeman, was appointed to have fifths of Bangor.<sup>4</sup> On the Restoration Henry Bridgeman, who now took his degree as Doctor of Divinity, was made Dean of Chester, and Prebendary of Stillington in York Cathedral, both in the year 1660.<sup>5</sup> He restored and beautified the Dean's house in the Abbey Court at Chester;<sup>6</sup> and the chancel of Barrow Church was built by him in 1671.<sup>7</sup> On the translation of Dr. Isaac Barrow to the see of St. Asaph he was consecrated Bishop of the Isle of Man

<sup>1</sup> Wood's *Ath. Ox.*, Vol. II, p. 1167.

<sup>2</sup> *Civil War Tracts of Lancashire*, Chetham Soc. Pub., Vol. II, p. 316.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 322.

<sup>4</sup> *Palatine Note-Book*, Vol. II, p. 216.

<sup>5</sup> Willis's *Survey of Cathedrals*, Vol. I, pp. 165, 340.

<sup>6</sup> *Leycester's Historical Antiquities*, p. 169.

<sup>7</sup> *Lysons' Cheshire*, p. 499.



1 Oct. 1671,<sup>1</sup> and was allowed to hold *in commendam* with it the Deanery of Chester, together with the rectories of Barrow and Bangor, his prebend at York, and the sinecure of Llanrwst in Denbighshire. In conjunction with his predecessor in the bishopric he founded a school in the Isle of Man; and he presented a chalice and paten to the Church of St. German's, Peel.<sup>2</sup>

Bishop Henry Bridgeman was twice married. His first wife was Katherine, eldest daughter of William Lever, of Kersall in the county of Lancaster, gent.; she died in or before 1679, in which year administration of her goods was granted.<sup>3</sup> By her he had, with two daughters Henrietta and Katherine, who both died unmarried and were buried in the chapel of St. Mary in Chester Cathedral,<sup>4</sup> an only surviving child Elizabeth, who was married in April 1665<sup>5</sup> to Thomas Greenhalgh of Brandlesham in the county of Lancaster Esq., by whom she had a numerous issue. Bishop Henry Bridgeman's second wife, whom he married late in life, was named Margaret. By her he had another daughter Henrietta, born about the year 1680. The Bishop died at Chester on 15 May 1682, and was buried in the Cathedral there, without any memorial.<sup>6</sup> His last wife survived him, and was re-married on 4 February 1687 to a Mr. John Allen.<sup>7</sup> Henrietta Bridgeman, the young daughter of Bishop Henry Bridgeman, appears to have had much difficulty in recovering her property from Mr. Allen; but she found a friend and protector in her cousin (her father's great-nephew) John Bridgeman of Blodwell co. Salop Esq., son and heir of Sir John Bridgeman of Castle Bromwich, Bart.; he offered her a home, and from his house at Blodwell she was afterwards married to the Rev. Samuel Aldersey, then Curate of Hargrave in Cheshire, and afterwards Rector of Wigan, second son and eventually heir of Thomas Aldersey, of Aldersey and Spurstow, co. Chester, Esq., by whom she had several children. They were married at Llany-

<sup>1</sup> Willis's Survey of Cathedrals, Vol. I, p. 369.

<sup>2</sup> Palatine Note-Book, Vol. II, p. 217.

<sup>3</sup> Wills and Administrations in Probate Court at Chester.

<sup>4</sup> Chapter Book of the Dean and Chapter of Chester, *ex inf.* Mr. T. Hughes, F.S.A., of Chester, bookseller.

<sup>5</sup> St. Oswald's, Chester, Par. Reg.

<sup>6</sup> Willis's Survey of Cathedrals, Vol. I, p. 369.

<sup>7</sup> In the Register of the Cathedral Church of Chester, which commences with the year 1687, occur the following entries: "Mr. John Allen & Madam Margaret Bridgeman marr. Feb<sup>r</sup> 4 Año Dom. 1687." "Margaret the wife of Mr. John Allen a member of the Custom House was buried July 18th [1700]. John Allen executor." "Mr. John Allen of the Abbey Court was bur<sup>d</sup> Nov. 10th [1716]."



blodwell on 8 October 1702,<sup>1</sup> and are now represented by Thomas Aldersey, of Aldersey and Spurstow, Esq., who has in his possession at Aldersey Hall a portrait of Mrs. Henrietta Aldersey, *at. 55*, painted by Fellows in 1734, and another of her father, Bishop Henry Bridgeman, three-quarter length, in which he is represented in surplice and stole with an Oxford M.A. hood, having a little black skull-cap on his head, and a book in his hand with the Bridgeman arms upon it.

James Bridgeman, the Bishop of Chester's fourth surviving son, who had been educated for six years at Wigan School, was admitted to St. John's College, Cambridge, on 7 Dec. 1631,<sup>2</sup> and continued there till Christmas 1633. In 1636 he was apparently living in London, and the Bishop complains that he would take no calling on him.<sup>3</sup> In the following year he was travelling "beyond sea," and subsequently in Scotland, from whence he returned in 1639. In that year he joined the army in Dublin, and served in the King's wars; shortly after his arrival in Ireland he seems to have had a quarrel with a certain Sir John Browne, as appears by a letter to his father from the Bishop of Elphin, who hopes that "in following yo<sup>r</sup> Lo<sup>ps</sup> good directions, and in making right use of those noble p<sup>t</sup>es and rich in<sup>d</sup>own'ts wherewith God hath blessed him," Mr. Bridgeman "may prove verie happie and successful in that militarie way of life by him undertaken, and so, in the harvest of yo<sup>r</sup> age, for his mis-guided and youthful courses may yeeld yo<sup>r</sup> Lo<sup>p</sup> a full compensation of joy and comfort."<sup>4</sup> He was knighted by King Charles I on 8 April 1646, having then attained the rank of colonel in the army.<sup>5</sup> He married Anne, the daughter of Richard Allen of Greenhill in Nether Whitley co. Chester, Esq.<sup>6</sup> By her Sir James Bridgeman left issue one son, James Bridgeman, who matriculated at Oxford from Queen's College 23 March 1665-6, aged 16, was a student of the Inner Temple in 1668,<sup>7</sup> and was living on 19 Feb. 1673-4,<sup>8</sup> but died unmarried; and three daughters: Magdalen, wife of William Winde Esq., of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; Frances, wife of

<sup>1</sup> Extracts from Registers of Llanyblodwell, in Hardwick's Ms. Collections for a Hist. of Shropshire, in the possession of the Rev. Ernest Bridgeman at Blymhill Rectory.

<sup>2</sup> Admissions to St. John's College, Cambridge, printed.

<sup>3</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>4</sup> Family Evidences.

<sup>5</sup> Metcalfe's Book of Knights, p. 203.

<sup>6</sup> Monument to her daughter, Frances Lady Howard, in Richmond Church.

<sup>7</sup> Foster's Alumni Oxonienses, 1500-1714.

<sup>8</sup> Will of Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Reg. Prerog. Cant., 83 Bunc.





William, third Lord Howard of Eserick, by whom she was the mother of Charles, the last Lord Howard of Eserick, and five other children, who all died without issue; and Anne, who died unmarried, but was living on 26 Jan. 1693-4,<sup>1</sup> "Mad<sup>m</sup> Magdalen Wind of the par: of St. Martin" was buried at Richmond on 8 Jan. 1708-9;<sup>2</sup> and Frances Lady Howard died 19 Dec. 1716, as is recorded on her monument, an exceptionally fine slab of white marble, which remains *in situ* under the altar in Richmond Parish Church.<sup>3</sup>

Richard Bridgeman, Bishop John Bridgeman's youngest surviving son, became a merchant at Amsterdam, and afterwards settled at Coombes Hall, near Stowmarket, in Suffolk. He married Catherine, daughter of Mr. Watson, an English merchant at Amsterdam, and had by her a son William, and a daughter Elizabeth, who was living and unmarried 19 Feb. 1673-4,<sup>4</sup> and afterwards married John Dove Esq., Surveyor of the Customs.

William Bridgeman of Westminster Esq., the son of Richard Bridgeman, matriculated at Oxford from Queen's College 17 Dec. 1662, aged 16.<sup>5</sup> He was Secretary to the Admiralty, and Clerk of the Privy Council to James II and William III; he was also M.P. for Bramber in Sussex from 1685 to 1687.<sup>6</sup> His death is thus referred to in Evelyn's Diary under 7 May 1699: "Mr. Bridgeman, chairman of the Committee for that charitable institution [Greenwich Hospital], died; a great loss to it. He was Clerk of the Council, a very industrious useful man."<sup>7</sup> He was evidently a friend of Evelyn's, who mentions having entertained him at dinner together with Lord Halifax, Sir Thomas Meeres, Sir John Clayton and others;<sup>8</sup> he also says that Mrs. Bridgeman, his wife, played the guitar with "extraordinary skill and dexterity."<sup>9</sup> This lady, whose name was Diana, was the daughter of Peter Vernatti, an Italian gentleman, and niece of Sir Philibert Vernatti, of Carleton co. York, knight, who was created a baronet of Nova Scotia in 1634.<sup>10</sup> She was buried 11 December 1707. They had issue, besides a second son William, who was born in 1684,<sup>11</sup> and probably died in

<sup>1</sup> Settlement upon the marriage of John Bridgeman with Ursula Matthews.

<sup>2</sup> Richmond Par. Reg.

<sup>3</sup> "Lady Howard's Monument in Richmond Church," by J. Challenor Smith, 1891 (Surrey Arch. Soc. Coll.).

<sup>4</sup> Will of Sir Orlando Bridgeman. <sup>5</sup> Foster's Alumni Oxonienses, 1500-1714.

<sup>6</sup> Return of Members of Parliament, 1878.

<sup>7</sup> Memoirs of John Evelyn, ed. of 1819, Vol. II, p. 63. <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 485.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 568.

<sup>10</sup> Herald and Genealogist, Vol. V, p. 146 &c

<sup>11</sup> Sir John Bridgeman's Family Bible.



infancy, a son Orlando, and a daughter Catherine, who married her second cousin, Orlando Bridgeman Esq., younger son of Sir John Bridgeman of Castle Bromwich, and dying without surviving issue was buried at Clifton co. Warwick 13 September 1742.

Orlando Bridgeman Esq., the only surviving son of William Bridgeman, succeeded to the estate of Coombes or Combs in Suffolk, where he rebuilt the hall,<sup>1</sup> and was also of St. James' within the liberty of Westminster. He was elected M.P. for Ipswich in 1713.<sup>2</sup> His first wife, whose name was Catherine, was buried at Combs 25 May 1711. He married secondly Alice, daughter and heir of William Shawe Esq., of St. Clement's, Ipswich, and widow of Mileson Edgar, of the Red House co. Suffolk, Esq. (by whom she left issue).<sup>3</sup> He died 24 April 1731, *atæt.* 51<sup>4</sup>; his widow did not long survive him, for she died on 25 December of the same year; they were both buried at Combs. By his first wife he had two sons, William and Orlando, and a daughter named Diana, who was born 22 April,<sup>5</sup> and was buried at Combs 4 Sept., 1706. He had another daughter, probably also by his first wife, who was living on 7 July 1726, but dead without issue before 1737. By his second wife he seems to have had no children.

Orlando, the younger son, died young unmarried; he was dead on 27 March 1727, when administration to his effects was granted to his father.<sup>6</sup> Among the papers of his aunt Mrs. Catherine Bridgeman has been preserved the following letter from him to his father, written apparently from Westminster School, and addressed "For Orlando Bridgeman Esq. att Combes Hall near Stowmarket in Suffolk:"

"Honour'd Sir,

I was willing to send you y<sup>e</sup> news of my Remove or else had write to you before, Doctor this morning call'd out the Four uppermost of which I was one, & after having examin'd [us in] Greek & Latin Author he bid us go, upon which according to Custom I was saluted by my Seniors with about fourteen or Fifteen unmerciful pinches upon my Arm, which I feel this very Instant, however I am

<sup>1</sup> Herald and Genealogist, Vol. V, p. 153. The Communion plate now in use at Combs Church was given to that parish by Mr. Orlando Bridgeman (*Ibid.*).

<sup>2</sup> Return of Members of Parliament, 1878.

<sup>3</sup> Burke's Landed Gentry, under "Edgar of Red House Park."

<sup>4</sup> Inscription on his coffin-plate. This coffin-plate, which is of lead, and has the Bridgeman arms surmounted by a helmet beautifully engraved upon it, is now affixed to the wall behind the organ in Combs Church (*ex inf.* G. Tidmarsh, Esq. of Combs).

<sup>5</sup> Inscription on her coffin-plate in Combs Church.

<sup>6</sup> Prerog. Cant. Adm. Book, 1727.

<sup>7</sup> MS. Letter *penes* Earl of Bradford.



now become a member of y<sup>e</sup> sixth form which we stile Royal, last Sunday I was at my Anuts & I am as sure as any one can be without being directly told, that my Aunt will come to Combes at Bartholomy-Tide if she does not Come before, my Aunt told me for y<sup>e</sup> time you had been that you was entertain'd very well and I hope you were same y<sup>e</sup> remaining Time, she carry'd [me] to y<sup>e</sup> Bishop of Durhams after church in the Afternoon whose Lady & Daughter were extreably Civil to me But he was not a home, Desiring my Aunt to bring me another Time, I have not seen Cap<sup>m</sup> Edgeworth since I rece'd yours I have been at his house once but he was not at home, & when I see him I shall not forget your Commands, This being the first Day of my Remove I will send y<sup>e</sup> Latin Chapters within a Post, or two at y<sup>e</sup> farthest, I should be extreably glad to hear of your safe Return to Combes, which Air, if by your favour I obtain at the next holidays, it will be a great deal of Pleasure, on Monday The Doctor coming down to Westminster was so kind as to call in at Mr. Huttons & see me, Mrs. Coc<sup>m</sup> is out of Town. Pray give my Duty to Mamma, my service to my Brother & Sister, and to the worthy Mr. Johnson if tis proper, for I shall always be willing to pay my Respects to a man of his Character, especially when he's esteem'd so by you

whose most Dutiful and most obedient son I will alway remain

Orl: Bridgeman

July ye 7<sup>th</sup> 1726

6 a Clock in y<sup>e</sup> Ev'ning."

William Bridgeman, the elder son of Mr. Orlando Bridgeman of Combs, was a barrister-at-law; he died unmarried in Paris on 17 August 1737,<sup>1</sup> when his aunt, Mrs. Catherine Bridgeman, his next of kin, took out administration to his effects.<sup>2</sup> She appears to have succeeded to the Combs estate, which at her death without surviving issue in 1742 passed to her brother-in-law Sir John Bridgeman of Castle Bromwich, whom in her will she calls her "brother and heir,"<sup>3</sup> although Mary Dove, spinster, and Catherine Tomlyn, widow, are elsewhere styled her heirs at law.<sup>4</sup> Combs Hall was afterwards acquired by a family named Crowley (or Crawley), and was demolished by one of them about the year 1794.<sup>5</sup>

Sir Orlando Bridgeman of Great Lever, knight, the eldest surviving son of John, Lord Bishop of Chester, was born, as we have already seen, at Exeter on 30 Jan. 1608-9. He was sent to

<sup>1</sup> Gentleman's Magazine for 1737, p. 573.

<sup>2</sup> Prerog. Cant. Adm. Book, 1737.

<sup>3</sup> Reg. Prerog. Cant., 220 Boycott.

<sup>4</sup> MS. in the possession of the Earl of Bradford.

<sup>5</sup> Herald and Genealogist, Vol. V, p. 154.

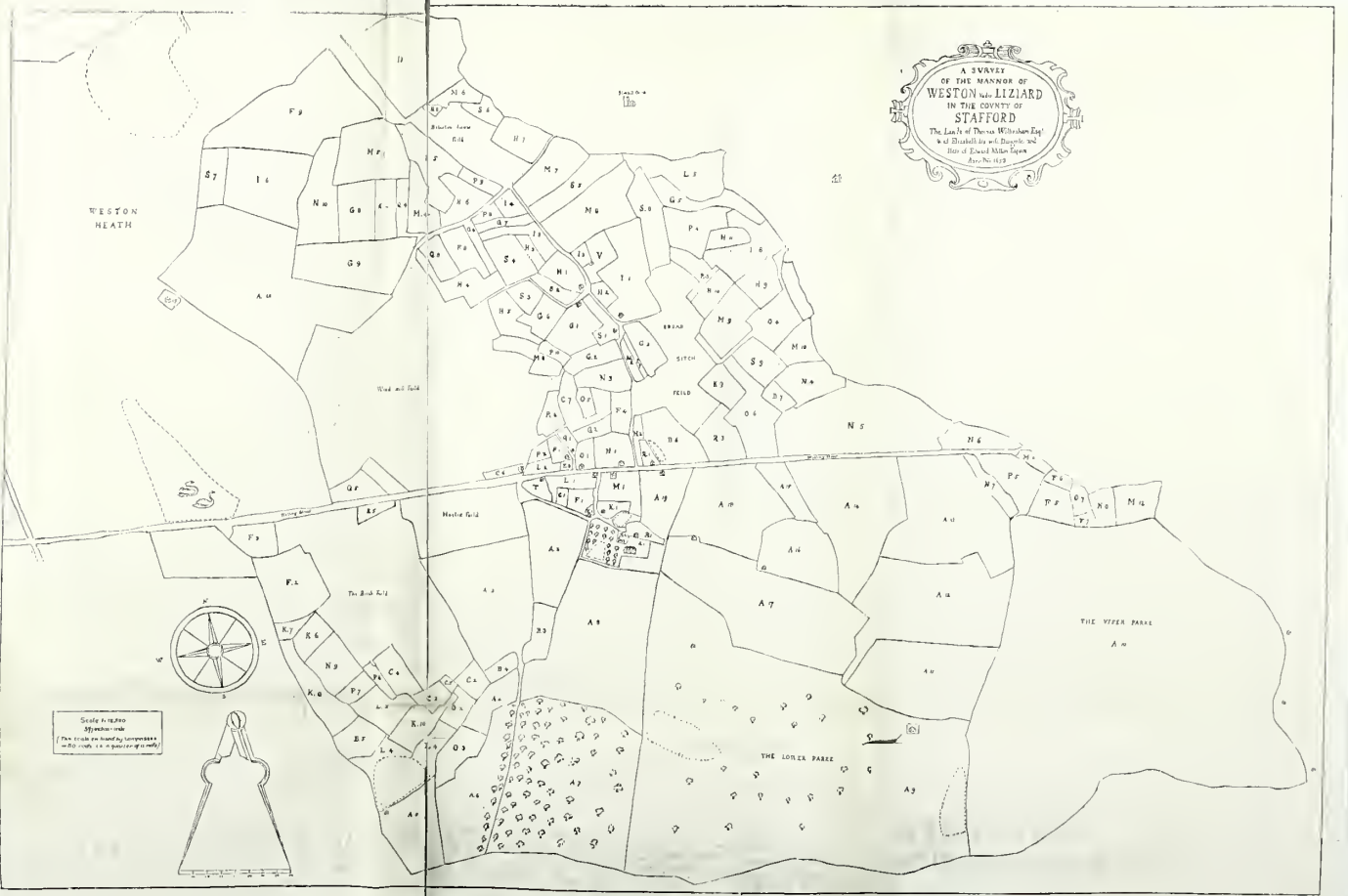








A SURVEY  
OF THE MANOR OF  
**WESTON and LIZIARD**  
IN THE COUNTY OF  
**STAFFORD**  
The Land of Thomas Whitlock Esq.  
by J. Blakell Esq. Surveyor  
and  
John Edward Miles Esq.  
Acting Surveyor  
Nov. 1849



WESTON  
HEATH

Wood and Field

Hay Field

The BULL LANE

THE VIFER PARK

THE LOVELL PARK

Scale 1/10,000  
3 1/2 inches = 1 mile  
The lines are bound by compass  
with scale, &c. in possession of the owner





school at Winwick when only 8 years old; and at the tender age of 11 he was already being instructed in the Hebrew tongue, for among his father's disbursements for the year 1620 we find: "Books for Orlando, hebrew, greek & latin, 29s."<sup>1</sup> The following year he was removed to a school at Chester, and in Jan. 1621-2 he went up to Cambridge, having been entered at Queen's College in July 1619. It is probable that during his residence at the University he migrated to his father's old college of Magdalene, for there is a *memorandum* in the Bishop's private Ledger that he was "admitted into *Magdalen* Coll: in Cambridge 22 June 16...;" he took his degree of M.A. at Midsummer 1624, being "senior master of that comencem<sup>t</sup>. After his disputation ended Dr. Goch & the fellows of Magdalen colledge chose him fellow of their colledge being now but 15 yeares old. But I admitted him into the Inner Temple, & would not let him take away the allowance & place of a poor man, seing fellowships were apointed for those who have no other meanes: and at Christmas I cutt his name out of the buttry."<sup>2</sup> Lord Campbell says that he "must have studied at his Inn of Court with great assiduity, for he was a profound master of the common law. He was particularly famous for diligent attendance in court at all interesting arguments; and while a student he took very full and accurate notes of cases, which he afterwards cited from the bench."<sup>3</sup> He was called to the Bar 10 Feb. 1632<sup>4</sup>; and although he was to inherit a good estate from his father, he applied himself to the study of his profession with such indefatigable industry and such marked success that he eventually became, to quote the words of the editor of his MS. collection of Conveyancing Precedents,<sup>5</sup> "the great Oracle, not only of his Fellow Sufferers [the Royalists], but of the whole Nation in Matters of Law; his very Enemies not thinking their Estates secure without his Advice." He was made Vice-Chamberlain of Chester 27 July 1638<sup>6</sup>; and Steward of the Liberties of

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>2</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger. The Rev. Barnaby Gooche, D.D., was Master of Magdalene College 1604-1626.

<sup>3</sup> Lord Campbell's Lives of the Chancellors, Vol. III, p. 272.

<sup>4</sup> Dictionary of National Biography, *sub nom.*

<sup>5</sup> "Sir Orl. Bridgeman's Conveyances," 5th ed., with Epistle Dedicatory, &c., by T. P. Johnson.

<sup>6</sup> Ormerod's Cheshire, Helsby's ed., Vol. I, p. 60. Sir Orlando Bridgeman's biographer in the Dic. Nat. Biogr. says that he was Chief Justice of Chester in 1638; but this is evidently a mistake. It was Sir John Bridgeman of Prinknash,





William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1639.<sup>1</sup> His first official appointment in the law was probably that of King's Counsel in the Duchy of Lancaster.<sup>2</sup> He was made Solicitor-General to the Prince of Wales "by patent under the Broad Seal"<sup>3</sup> in May 1640; and knighted by King Charles I on 17 Nov. 1643.<sup>4</sup>

Meanwhile, in 1640, he had been returned as member for the borough of Wigan in the Long Parliament; and in 1641 he had the courage to speak against the iniquitous attainder of the Earl of Stafford when that unfortunate nobleman was deserted by so many of his friends. On 29 Aug. 1642 he was expelled from the House of Commons for assisting in the defence of the city of Chester by the Royalists against the Parliamentary forces<sup>5</sup>; but when King Charles summoned the members of the two houses who were faithful to him to meet at Oxford in January 1644-5, Orlando Bridgeman took his seat in Christ Church Hall as the lawful representative of Wigan, and was one of the King's Commissioners at the Uxbridge negotiations in January 1645-6.<sup>6</sup> As a reward for his services he was appointed "Attorney-General to the Court of Wards and Liveries" by patent under the Great Seal at Oxford.<sup>7</sup>

When the success of the Royal cause at last seemed hopeless, Sir Orlando retired to Morton Hall, his seat in Shropshire, and afterwards came privately to London, where he practised as a conveyancer and chamber counsel; but he would not recognise the usurped authority during the Commonwealth so far as to put on his gown and plead before the judges in open court.<sup>8</sup> He was not however allowed to reside in London; on 10 Sept. 1650 he received a licence from the council of state to remain at Beaconsfield with his family, and on 15 and 29 Oct. of the same year he had special licences to come to London and remain there for about a month while engaged on particular business.<sup>9</sup> Lord Campbell tells us that though he looked forward to better times he thought it more prudent to trust to the growing discontent of the nation than to engage in any of the premature royalist plots, which ended in ruining their authors and strengthening the existing

knight, who died Chief Justice of Chester in 1638, and was succeeded in that office by Sir Thomas Milward. (Ormerod's Cheshire, Helby's ed., Vol. I, p. 65.)

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Metcalfe's Book of Knights, p. 201.

<sup>5</sup> Lord Campbell's Lives of the Chancellors, Vol. III, p. 273.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 274.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Dic. Nat. Biogr.



government.<sup>1</sup> When the proper time for action arrived, however, he actively exerted himself to further the cause of the Restoration. He was apparently in constant communication with the Court, and high in the confidence of Hyde (afterwards Earl of Clarendon); for two days after the King's return to Whitehall on 29 May 1660 a writ was issued under the Great Seal calling him to the degree of a serjeant-at-law, and in two days more, on 2 June, he was made Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer.<sup>2</sup> Lord Campbell in speaking of this time says that Clarendon "was sincerely desirous to select the fittest men that could be found" to fill the bench of Judges, but that it was not easy to find men "whose political principles, juridical acquirements, past conduct, and present position, entitled them to high preferment. . . . One individual" however "was discovered—Sir Orlando Bridgeman—eminent for both law and loyalty. Early distinguished as a rising advocate, he had sacrificed his profits that he might assist the royal cause by carrying arms, and refusing to profess allegiance to those whom he considered rebels he had spent years in seclusion, yet still devoted himself to professional studies in which he took the highest delight."<sup>3</sup>

He was made a baronet on 7 June 1660, being the first baronet created by King Charles II after his Restoration; and in October of the same year he presided at the trial of the regicides, which he conducted with great moderation,<sup>4</sup> and though he instructed the jury to find a verdict of guilty, he instantly checked the burst of tumultuous applause with which that verdict was received, saying that it was more fitting for a stage play than for a Court of Justice.<sup>5</sup> At the conclusion of the trial he was made Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, the patent being dated 22 Oct. 1660.

It was at this period of his career that Dr. Lloyd, in his memoirs of the noble, reverend, and excellent personages who suffered for their faithful allegiance to their sovereign, says that Sir Orlando was "a great honor" to his Majesty's cause, "his moderation and equity being such in dispensing his Majesty's Law that he seems to carry a kind of Chancery in his Breast in the Common-pleas, as if he carried about him the King's Conscience

<sup>1</sup> Lord Campbell's *Lives of the Chancellors*, Vol. III, p. 275.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Lord Campbell's *Lives of the Chief Justices*, Vol. I, p. 492.

<sup>4</sup> *Dic. Nat. Biogr.*

<sup>5</sup> Lord Campbell's *Lives of the Chancellors*, Vol. III, p. 277.



as well as his own."<sup>1</sup> And another authority bears this high testimony to his learning and character: "In the arguments of Chief Justice Bridgeman methinks I find that *cciseccratio causa*, as the Roman Orator calls it, an exact anatomy of the case, and a dexterous piercing into the very bowels of it: and it was no small commendation of an eminent professor of our law, and one that afterwards was advanced to the highest office a person of that profession can be capable, that *he always argued like a lawyer and a gentleman.*"<sup>2</sup>

After presiding for nearly seven years in the Court of Common Pleas he was made Lord Keeper of the Great Seal 31 Aug. 1667, in the place of the Earl of Clarendon, who had fallen under the King's displeasure. Sir Orlando owed his elevation solely to his great merit and high reputation for integrity and moderation. Though a staunch Royalist and devoted to his King, he was uncorrupted by the licentiousness of the Court, and was in no way mixed up with the intrigues which ended in the removal of Clarendon. The King had been strongly urged to give him the Great Seal at the time when Clarendon was raised to office immediately after the Restoration; and during the illness of the Lord Chancellor Lord Chief Justice Bridgeman frequently sat as Speaker of the House of Lords. His elevation was hailed with great and general satisfaction; and Pepys in his Diary bears testimony to the gratification with which the announcement of it was received: "The Seal is delivered to Sir Orlando Bridgeman, the man of the whole nation that is best spoken of, and will please most people, and therefore I am mighty glad of it."<sup>3</sup>

His venerable mother, the University of Cambridge, on 19 Sept. 1667 complimented him on his appointment in an affectionate letter, styling him, "*Antistes Equitatis, Norma Legum, Fori moderamen, Præsidiumque omnium Jure Defectorum.*"<sup>4</sup>

If we may believe Lord Campbell, who is somewhat severe in his criticism of those who differ from him in politics, Sir Orlando's reputation as a judge in the High Court of Chancery was not so great as it had been in the Common Law Courts; he says that he was too anxious to please everybody, which is "a temper of ill consequence in a judge," and tells us that "he departed from the

<sup>1</sup> p. 622.

<sup>2</sup> Preface to Carter's "Reports."

<sup>3</sup> Memoirs of Samuel Pepys, ed. of 1828, Vol. III, pp. 338, 339.

<sup>4</sup> Preface to Part II of Sir Orlando Bridgeman's "Conveyances," where the address is given at length.





discreet practice of Lord Clarendon, always to have Judges and Masters in Chancery on the Bench with him to assist him";<sup>1</sup> yet he mentions in another place that Chief Justice Sir Matthew Hale "was frequently called into the Court of Chancery as assessor by Lord Chancellor Clarendon and Lord Keeper Bridgeman."<sup>2</sup> Lord Campbell also censures him, on the authority of Roger North (who, we must remember, had a grudge against him on his brother Lord Guilford's account), for want of vigour and firmness in deciding cases of equity, but he concludes his criticism on this head by stating that "the printed Reports of his decisions in Chancery are so scanty that the perusal of them does not enable us to form any opinion of him as an Equity Judge; the points to be found there are of small importance, and seem generally to have been properly ruled."<sup>3</sup> Lord Chancellor Nottingham, referring to one of his decisions, said: "It is due to the memory of so great a man, whenever we speak of him, to mention him with reverence and with veneration for his learning and integrity"<sup>4</sup>; and Lord Ellenborough pronounces him "a most eminent Judge, distinguished by the profundity of his learning and extent of his industry."<sup>5</sup>

Lord Campbell also says: "He appears to have behaved with generosity to his former patron and friend [Lord Clarendon] when all the world was abandoning him, and at the risk of soon losing the Great Seal to have done what lay in his power to stop the impeachment and to prevent the necessity for flight. He was the messenger who carried to the King the last letter which Clarendon wrote to him in England, denying his privity with the marriage between the Duke of Richmond and 'La belle Stuart'; and if he at last counselled him to withdraw, according to the strong hint which Charles then so insultingly gave, Clarendon's own family and most attached friends now joined in the same advice. Whatever influence the new Lord Keeper had was used to make the bill of pains and penalties, which the King and the Court party insisted on, operate with as little prejudice as possible to Clarendon and his property; and he behaved with kindness to the sons and dependents of the banished Earl."<sup>6</sup>

During Lord Keeper Bridgeman's administration the Triple

<sup>1</sup> Lord Campbell's Lives of the Chancellors, Vol. III, p. 280.

<sup>2</sup> Lord Campbell's Lives of the Chief Justices, Vol. I, p. 552.

<sup>3</sup> Lord Campbell's Lives of the Chancellors, Vol. III, p. 281.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 287.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 282.



Alliance was negotiated, and the Treaty signed. He held the Great Seal till the year 1672.<sup>1</sup> The measure that led to his fall was the "Declaration of Indulgence," which he was unwilling to sanction as contrary to the interests of the Church. Sir Thomas Clifford, who was endeavouring to re-introduce the authority of the Pope, and hoped that the King would soon openly profess himself a Roman Catholic, proposed in council in February of that year that a royal Declaration should be published "for indulgence to tender consciences, suspending by the supreme power in ecclesiastical matters inherent in the Crown, and recognised by several acts of Parliament, all manner of penal laws in matters ecclesiastical against whatsoever sort of non-conformists or recusants." But Sir Orlando Bridgeman positively refused, without further consideration, to allow the Declaration to pass the Great Seal. Bishop Burnet, speaking of this, says: "Bridgeman refused to put the seal to it as judging it contrary to law; so he was dismiss'd."<sup>2</sup> This is also asserted by Smollett<sup>3</sup> and others; but Lord Campbell informs us that he was eventually prevailed upon to affix the seal to the Declaration after Clifford had introduced a proviso (which he hoped might be soon got rid of or not enforced) that the benefit of public worship should not be extended to the Roman Catholics, who "to avoid molestation must confine their religious assemblies to private houses."<sup>4</sup> His want of subserviency however in this matter displeased the King and his favourites, and though he retained his office for some months he was thenceforward an object of suspicion to the Court. The immediate cause of his removal was his refusal to grant the injunctions and to stop the law-suits against the bankers, which resulted from the closing of the Exchequer, although the King intervened personally in their favour.

The Earl of Shaftesbury, who had determined to gain possession of the Great Seal himself, did not rest until he had prevailed upon the King to dismiss Sir Orlando Bridgeman and to appoint himself as his successor. The event was thus announced to the public in the London Gazette:

<sup>1</sup> Sir Orlando Bridgeman by his will bequeathed to his eldest son John, to remain as an heirloom in the family, what he describes as "that great piece of plate which was made of the great seal which I had in my custody." This was a large silver bowl, which is still in the possession of his descendant the Earl of Bradford.

<sup>2</sup> Burnet's Hist. of his own Time, fol. ed., Vol. I, p. 307.

<sup>3</sup> Smollett's Hist. of England, ed. of 1757, Vol. III, p. 443.

Lord Campbell's Lives of the Chancellors, Vol. III, p. 284, citing Parl. Hist. 515.



“Whitehall, Nov. 17, 1672.

His Majesty, reflecting upon the age and infirmities of Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, hath thought fit to admit of his resignation thereof, with all demonstration on his Majesty's part of his kindness and esteem of the said Lord Keeper's merit towards him; and his Majesty, willing to gratify the uninterrupted good services of the Earl of Shaftesbury, Chancellor of the Exchequer and one of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, was pleased this day to give unto him the keeping of the said Great Seal, with the title of Lord Chancellor of England.”<sup>1</sup>

For a long time before this Sir Orlando had been suffering severely from the gout, which rendered his official duties a matter of difficulty to him. In a letter written to his son “John Bridgeman Esq<sup>r</sup>. at Castle Bromwich neare Coleshill in Warwickshire,” and dated 29 Jan. 1666-7, he says: “I am gotten abroad agayn, but infinitely lame, and not altogether without payne. I verily believe (every fitt [of] goute weakning mee) that I shall shortly be a perfect cripple. God's will be done.” In another letter to his son, dated 11 May 1671, he says: “I struggle with my goute, much ado I have to keep up, goe I cannot, yet make shift to bee carryed to Westminster Hall.” And in another letter: “I am the same in my resolutions as I was ever, and intend as soon as fayrely I can to retire to a privat life, being weary of my employmentt, and walking but upon a narrow Bridge; in which walk I yet keep principally for conscience sake, not being willing to desert the ship in a storm.”

His London residence was at Essex House in the Strand, opposite St. Clement's Church. After his resignation of office he lived in entire seclusion at his villa at Teddington, and died there on 25 June 1674 in the 66th year of his age.

Bishop Burnet says that “he was a man of great integrity, and had very serious impressions of religion on his mind.”<sup>2</sup> His honourable and consistent conduct through life proves the sincerity of his religion. Having suffered for his faithfulness to his King, he lived to see the triumph of his principles, and to reap the fruits of his loyalty. In his prosperity he was mindful of the wants of others, and a generous supporter of the Church. His younger son

<sup>1</sup> Lord Campbell's Lives of the Chancellors, Vol. III, p. 309.

<sup>2</sup> Burnet's Hist. of his own Time, fol. ed., Vol. I p. 253.





Sir Francis Bridgeman, states in the writings annexed to his will<sup>1</sup> that his father, the Lord Keeper, gave £400 yearly to the cathedral establishments, and procured it to be settled in augmentation of the episcopal revenues. He also gave various sums to purchase tithes &c. for such churches as he had to do with, which were not, as he thought, sufficiently endowed,<sup>2</sup> as for example those of Castle Bromwich in Warwickshire and Teddington in Middlesex. He favoured men of integrity and learning; Bishop Cumberland, author of "De Legibus Naturæ Disquisitio Philosophica" and several other works, was his chaplain, and received from him the living of All-Hallows, Stamford.<sup>3</sup> Dr. George Hall, Dr. John Wilkins, and the famous Dr. John Pearson, successively Bishops of Chester, were all preferred by him to the rectory of Wigan, the advowson of which parish, for several years the principal home of his childhood, he had purchased shortly after the Restoration.<sup>4</sup> It was Sir Orlando Bridgeman who promoted Sir Matthew Hale to be Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, whom Lord Campbell describes as one of the most pure, most pious, most independent, and most learned of Chief Justices; and Bishop Burnet tells us that all men applauded his choice. Sir William Dugdale bears his testimony to Sir Orlando's character in a letter dated from "Blythe Hall neare Coleshill, 29<sup>o</sup> Junii 1674, for my much honoured friend Thomas Blount Esq<sup>r</sup>. at his chamber in Figg-tree Court on the backside the Inner Temple Hall London" in the following terms: "I am sorry for the late L<sup>d</sup> Keeper Bridgman's death. I always esteem'd him a very upright man, and have great reason to thinke him so, however his decrees may be revers'd; but I know his reputation suffred much by his wife, who is a woman that hath no good esteeme by any that knows her."<sup>5</sup>

The portraits of Sir Orlando and some other judges were placed in the Guildhall about the year 1671 in testimony of the gratitude of the city of London for their signal services in having settled, without expense of lawsuit, the properties of the citizens after the Fire of 1666.<sup>6</sup> There is a fine portrait of Sir

<sup>1</sup> MS. *penes* Earl of Bradford at Weston.

<sup>2</sup> Playfair's *British Family Antiquity*, Vol. II, p. 387.

<sup>3</sup> Lord Campbell's *Lives of the Chancellors*, Vol. III, p. 288.

<sup>4</sup> Canon Bridgeman's *History of the Church and Manor of Wigan*, pp. 483, 484.

<sup>5</sup> Hamper's *Life of Sir William Dugdale*, pp. 395, 396.

<sup>6</sup> Nicholl's *Guildhall*, pp 31, 32. These portraits are full length, by Michael Wright.



Orlando, as Lord Keeper, together with one of his second wife, at Chirk Castle. There is also a portrait of him at Weston, as Lord Chief Justice,<sup>1</sup> and another smaller one as Lord Keeper, which last was the gift of the then Marquis of Bath to Orlando, 1st Earl of Bradford; and yet another, as Lord Keeper, in the possession of Thomas Aldersey Esq. at Aldersey Hall.

King Charles II appears to have entertained a great respect for Sir Orlando Bridgeman, and to have treated him with consistent kindness until his better nature was warped by the intrigues of worthless favourites. As an instance of the esteem in which he held him we may mention his voluntary offer of making him a peer,<sup>2</sup> an honour which Sir Orlando's prudence prompted him to decline. As it was his intention to divide his property between his eldest son and his issue by his second marriage, he considered that the estate which he purposed to leave to his eldest son would be insufficient to support the dignity of a peerage, and therefore thought it better to refuse the higher position, and to accept of a baronetage for his second son instead.

Sir Orlando Bridgeman was twice married. His first wife, to whom he was united 30 Jan. 1627-8,<sup>3</sup> was Judith, eldest daughter and sole heir of John Kynaston of Morton co. Salop Esq., by whom he had one son John, who succeeded him. He had also a daughter Elizabeth, who was born 20 May 1629,<sup>4</sup> and died in infancy; the following entries respecting her occur in the register of Wigan Church: "Bapptised 1629, May 24 Elizabeth Bridgeman do<sup>r</sup> to Arlndowe gentelmā." "Buriales 1629 Jullie 17 Elizabeth Bridgeman do<sup>r</sup> to Mr. Landoe my Lorde's son." Judith Bridgeman died at Oxford 12 July 1644, and was buried in the University Church there. Her mother, Mrs. Bridget Kynaston, had died a few months before her; and there is a monument to their joint memory in the Church of Malpas in Cheshire, bearing the following inscription: "*M.S. Bridgetta Kinaston, quondam uxoris Joh'is Kinaston de Morton in com. Salop. arm. quæ obiit 8 die April. anno 1644, et hic jacet sepulta. Et Dominæ Judithæ Bridgman eorum filia et coheredis, quæ obiit 12 Julii eodem anno et sepulta jacet Ozonii.*"

<sup>1</sup> There is a replica of this picture at Bothwell Castle, belonging to the collection formed by Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon, and now the property of the Earl of Home.

<sup>2</sup> MS. Family Pedigree at Weston.

<sup>3</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*



*Joh'es Bridgman, Armiger, hoc pietatis et officii sui erga charissimos parentes monumentum posuit.*"<sup>1</sup>

Sir Orlando married secondly at St. Dionis Backchurch in London, on 22 April 1647;<sup>2</sup> Dorothy, daughter and co-heir of Dr. John Saunders, sometime Fellow, then Principal, of St. Mary's Hall, and afterwards Provost of Oriel College, Oxford, and Physician to King Charles I; she was the widow of George Cradock of Caverswall Castle, co. Stafford, Esq. By her he had three sons, Orlando, Robert and Francis, and three daughters, Frances, Margaret and Charlotte.

Sir Orlando Bridgeman was buried at Teddington, in the Church of St. Mary, where there is a monument to his memory with the following inscription, which would seem to have been the composition of Sir William Dugdale:<sup>3</sup>

"M.S.

ORLANDI BRIDGEMAN Equ: aur: Baronetti  
(Johān Bridgeman non ita pridem Cestren: Episc:  
filii natu & gloriā maximi).

Ab interiori templo primum auspicatus;  
apud CESTRIAM deinde Vicecamerarius;  
Principi CAROLO postea Solicitator generalis,  
Nec non Curie Wardorum & Liberationum attorney  
efficitur.

Redeunte autem R. CAROLO secundo,  
in capitalem Scaccarii Baronem,  
summum communis Banci Justiciarium  
ac Magni ANGLIÆ Sigilli custodem  
merito ascitus est.

Uxorem primum JUDITHAM KYNASTON de MORTON  
in agro Salop: filiam et cohæredem  
duxit

e qua filium unicum JOH. modo Baronettum,  
Suscepit

postmodum DOROTHEAM JOHANNIS SANDERS M.D. filiam & cohæredē  
(GEORGH CRADOCK de CAVERSWALL castro in com: Staff: relicta) que  
filios ORLANDUM itidem Baronettum & FRANCISCUM equ: aur:  
filiamq; nomine CHARLOTAM  
sibi peperit.

Diem obiit xxv° Junii anno Salutis humanæ  
MDCLXXXIII°  
ætatis LXVI°

Optimo patri Johannes primogenitus  
hoc, Lugens, posuit."

<sup>1</sup> Ormerod's Cheshire, Helsby's ed., Vol. II, p. 617.

<sup>2</sup> Registers of St. Dionis Backchurch, London, pub. by the Harleian Society.

<sup>3</sup> Hamper's Life of Sir W. Dugdale, p. 40.





Above this inscription are three shields, that in the centre being *sa.* 10 plates, 4, 3, 2, and 1, on a chief *arg.* a lion passant *erminees* (Bridgeman); below it on the left, *arg.* a lion rampant *sa.* (Kynaston); and on the right, per chevron *sa.* and *arg.* three elephants' heads erased, counterchanged (Sanders).<sup>1</sup>

His second wife, Dame Dorothy, survived him; he left to her his house in London, and the house and lands at Teddington, for her life, together with a life interest in his estate at Bowdow near Calne in Wiltshire.

Of Sir Orlando Bridgeman's children by his second marriage Frances, the eldest daughter, was baptized at St. Dionis Backchurch 17 April, and buried there 15 May, 1648.<sup>2</sup>

Margaret, the second daughter, was born at Kensington, as appears from the register of that parish, in which is the following entry: "Margaret, daughter of Sir Orlando Bridgeman Knt. & the Lady Dorothy his wife, born at the Countess of Musgrave's house, of a Sabbath day, about 6 or 7 o'clock in the afternoon, Aug. 17, 1656."<sup>3</sup> She also died young.

Charlotte, the third and only surviving daughter, was born in her father's house at Teddington.<sup>4</sup> She was under 16 on 4 June 1674.<sup>5</sup> She became the wife of Sir Thomas Middleton, of Chirk Castle co. Denbigh, Bart., by whom she had two sons who died young and an only surviving daughter Charlotte, who was married first to Edward Rich, Earl of Warwick and Holland (by whom she had an only child Edward Henry, Earl of Warwick and Holland, one of the Lords of the Bedchamber to King George I, who died unmarried in 1721), and secondly, in the year 1716, to the celebrated Joseph Addison, of Bilton in Warwickshire, Principal Secretary of State to King George I, by whom she had an only daughter Charlotte, who died unmarried in the year 1797, and left her estate at Bilton to the Hon. John Simpson, second son of Henry Lord Bradford.

Sir Orlando Bridgeman, the Lord Keeper's eldest son by his

<sup>1</sup> In the Teddington parish registers we find the following entries:—"The Rite omored Lord Bridgeman was bured the 3 of July 1674." "Dame Dorothy Bridgeman wife & relict of Sr Orlando Bridgeman was buried Jan. 12, 1696-7." In the year 1833, when some alterations were made in Teddington Church, the Lord Keeper's coffin was found open; his body, which had been embalmed, was almost perfect, even to his pointed beard; but on being exposed to the air it immediately crumbled to dust (Walford's Greater London, Vol. I, p. 126).

<sup>2</sup> Registers of St. Dionis Backchurch.

<sup>3</sup> Lysons' Environs of London, Vol. III, p. 209.

<sup>4</sup> MS. of Sir Francis Bridgeman, knight.

<sup>5</sup> Men. or. undum attached to Sir Orlando Bridgeman's will.



second wife, who was baptized at St. Dionis Backchurch 9 Dec. 1649,<sup>1</sup> was educated at Westminster School, and admitted to Magdalene College, Cambridge, 20 April 1664.<sup>2</sup> He was created a baronet during his father's lifetime 12 Nov. 1673. He inherited from his father estates at Ridley, Wigland etc. co. Chester, and at Wolvesacre co. Flint.<sup>3</sup> He married Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Cave, of Stamford co. Northampton, Bart., by whom he left issue one son and two daughters. He died 20 April 1701,<sup>4</sup> and was buried at St. Michael's Coventry. His widow did not long survive him, for she died on 8 June of the same year, and was also buried at St. Michael's, Coventry; her funeral sermon was preached in St. Michael's Church by the Vicar, the Rev. Isaac Fox, on 17 June. In her life-time she gave a red silk damask, with a silk and silver fringe, for the pulpit of St. Michael's Church, which up to recent times was still occasionally used.<sup>5</sup> Their residence, when in Coventry, was a very ancient house in Little Park Street; it was pulled down about ninety years ago, and a fine old chimney-piece belonging to it was removed to Bablake Hospital, where it may still be seen.<sup>6</sup>

Sir Orlando Bridgeman of Ridley's two daughters were Penelope, who became the second wife of Thomas Newport, afterwards Lord Torrington, brother of Richard, Earl of Bradford, and died without issue in 1705<sup>7</sup>; and Charlotte, who became the second wife of Richard Symes of Blackheath Esq., son of Thomas Symes Esq. of Winterbourne co. Gloucester, and died in 1718, leaving her husband again a widower.<sup>8</sup>

The only son, Sir Orlando Bridgeman of Ridley, second Baronet of that line, lived principally at Bowood co. Wilts. He matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford, 10 Nov. 1694, aged 15<sup>9</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> Registers of St. Dionis Backchurch.

<sup>2</sup> Magd. Coll., Cambridge, Adm. Reg. An Orlando Bridgeman, almost certainly the same person, was elected M.P. for Horsham in Sussex in 1669 (Return of Members of Parliament, 1878); if so, he must have been under age at the time.

<sup>3</sup> The property at Wigland and a moiety of that at Wolvesacre were bought from Mr. Richard Egerton in 1633, apparently by Bishop John Bridgeman, but in the name of his son Orlando. (Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.)

<sup>4</sup> Draft letter of John Bridgeman Esq., afterwards Sir John Bridgeman, Bart.

<sup>5</sup> Colville's Worthies of Warwickshire, p. 59.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 56. The occupant of the house is there stated to have been this Sir Orlando Bridgeman's father, the Lord Keeper, which can hardly be the case.

<sup>7</sup> Le Neve's Monumenta Anglicana, 1700 to 1715, p. 108.

<sup>8</sup> Monument to Richard Symes Esq. in the vault under Lewisham Church, mentioned in Lysons' Environs of London, Vol. IV, p. 520.

<sup>9</sup> Foster's Alumni Oxonienses, 1500-1714.



and was successively M.P. for Coventry (1707-10), Calne in Wiltshire (1715-22), Lostwithiel in Cornwall (1724-27), Bletchingly in Surrey (1727-34), and Dunwich in Suffolk (1734-37).<sup>1</sup> He was Auditor-General to the Prince of Wales (afterwards King George II), and was appointed Governor of Barbadoes in 1737; he never went out however to that island, but was drowned in the Thames; after he had been missing several weeks his body was taken out of the river near Limehouse 10 June 1738.<sup>2</sup> He married Susanna, daughter of Sir Francis Dashwood, of Wickham co. Bucks, Bart., who survived him, and died 4 Sept. 1747.<sup>3</sup> By her he had several children,<sup>4</sup> of whom Francis was baptized 20 July 1704; Mary, 26 Aug. 1705; and Orlando, 16 Sept. 1706; all at Wansted.<sup>5</sup> The only survivors were Francis, his son and heir; and Mary, who died unmarried, but was living on 1 July, 1743, when she proved her kinswoman Mrs. Catherine Bridgeman's will.

Sir Francis Bridgeman, third and last Baronet of this branch of the family, is said by Burke to have been born in 1713<sup>6</sup>; and this is corroborated by the Family Bible of his relative and godfather Sir John Bridgeman of Castle Bromwich, where it is recorded that "Francis Bridgeman *eldest* sen to Sr Orlando Bridgeman Bar<sup>tt</sup> of Bowood in Wiltshire was born in the month of July 1713"; this entry shows that the other Francis, baptized at Wansted in 1704, must have been already dead, unless indeed the name in the Wansted Register is that of a daughter, and not of a son. Sir Francis went out with Sir Chaloner Ogle to the West Indies, and died on board the fleet in November or December 1740,<sup>7</sup> when the baronetage became extinct; and it is believed that the issue of the second marriage of the Lord Keeper Sir Orlando Bridgeman has entirely died out.

The Lord Keeper had also a son Robert, who was baptized at St. Dionis Backchurch 6 Feb. 1650-1<sup>8</sup>; he probably died an infant.

<sup>1</sup> Return of Members of Parliament, 1878.

<sup>2</sup> Gentleman's Magazine for 1738, p. 324.

<sup>3</sup> Gentleman's Magazine for 1747, p. 447.

<sup>4</sup> Sir Orlando lost a son in the year 1712 (before 27 June); he had then more than one daughter living (Draft letter of John Bridgeman Esq, afterwards Sir John Bridgeman, Bart.).

<sup>5</sup> Extracts from Wansted Par. Reg. given in Lysons' Environs of London, Vol. IV, p. 243. The mansion at Wansted, which was built by Sir Francis Dashwood about 1690, passed from him to his son-in-law Sir Orlando Bridgeman, who sold it to Mr. Gough (Lysons' Environs of London, Vol. IV, p. 236).

<sup>6</sup> Burke's Extinct Baronetage, *sub nom.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Registers of St. Dionis Backchurch.





Sir Francis Bridgeman, of Teddington, knight, the youngest son of the Lord Keeper, went to school at Brentford in Essex, and was admitted to Magdalene College, Cambridge, 23 April 1669, "*annum agens decimum quartum*."<sup>1</sup> He was a serjeant-at-law, and was knighted by King Charles II on 15 Nov. 1673.<sup>2</sup> His father left him his estates at Bowood<sup>3</sup> for life, and at Teddington after his mother's death. He married Susanna, daughter and only child of Sir Richard Barker, knight, of London, M.D., but died without issue, when the estate at Teddington reverted to his eldest brother Sir John Bridgeman, Bart., and the Bowood estate to his nephew Sir Orlando Bridgeman of Ridley. The alms-house at Teddington, consisting of five tenements, was built with a sum of £50 given by Sir Francis Bridgeman.<sup>4</sup> He was a staunch Royalist, and though he held out against the claims of the Church of Rome, would never acknowledge the Prince of Orange as King of England. He lived many years abroad, chiefly at Venice, vainly hoping for the restoration of King James II, and died an exile from his country in or shortly before the year 1717.<sup>5</sup>

Sir John Bridgeman, eldest son of the Lord Keeper, and the only surviving child by his first marriage, succeeded his father as 2nd Baronet, and inherited his chief estates, which included that at Great Lever in Lancashire as well as his (Sir John's) mother's property at Morton in Shropshire. His birth is recorded by his grandfather the Bishop in the following words: "On Tuesday morning: 16 August: 1631: early, about a quarter of an houre befor two of the clock that morning: my son Orlando's second child (his first son) was born in the chamber next to the Lord's chamber under the study gallery in Great Lever: & Baptized by name John in the church of Bolton Moores on Sunday following viz. 21 Aug. by M<sup>r</sup> Greg vicar of Bolton (because that church was nigh) but in the presence of the minister of Middleton whom I sent for purposely because Lever is in Middleton parish. His godfathers were John Kynaston my brother in Law [*i.e.* son's father-in-law]: & my son Dove Bridgeman: & his godmother was my wife. O Gracious god

<sup>1</sup> Magd. Coll., Cambridge, Adm. Reg.

<sup>2</sup> Burke's Extinct Baronetage, *sub. nom.*

<sup>3</sup> Bowood Park had been leased by Sir Orlando Bridgeman from the Crown for a term of lives 2 April, 1661 (Original MS. at Weston).

<sup>4</sup> Lysons' Environs of London, Vol. III, p. 516.

<sup>5</sup> Draft letter of John Bridgeman Esq., afterwards Sir John Bridgeman, Part., dated 9 April, 1717.



wh<sup>ch</sup> hast given him to me, make him a faythful & constant servant of thyne, & give him such plenty of thy graces & blessings as may most sett forth thy glory in this life; bring him to eternall hapines after this life: so be it, good god, for thy deer Sonne Christ Jesus sake. Amen Amen Amen. Jo. CESTRIEX.<sup>1</sup>

John Bridgeman's boyhood seems to have been spent a good deal with his grandfather; for in a draft of an early will of his father, Sir Orlando, the latter expresses a desire that in the event of his own death occurring before that of his wife she should live with his father the Bishop, for he would not wish to have his son "to part from his grandfather till the University shall draw him away." And as early as the year 1638 we find among Bishop Bridgeman's disbursements the following entry: "My grandchild Jack one sute at London & cloke &c. of silk 6£, 3 sutes besides in the country and schooling &c. in all 12£."<sup>2</sup>

In 1657 Mr. John Bridgeman purchased (or probably his father purchased on his behalf) from Leicester Devereux, 6th Viscount Hereford, the manors of Castle Bromwich and Hodgbill in Warwickshire. In 1660 he was returned as one of those persons worthy of being made Knights of the Royal Oak,<sup>3</sup> an order intended by King Charles II as a reward to several of his followers; at which time his income was returned at £1,000 *per annum*. He purchased in 1704 from John Price Esq. the manor of Park Hall, adjacent to Castle Bromwich, and formerly the chief seat of the ancient family of the Ardens. Meanwhile he had bought yet another property, the manor of Clifton upon Dunsmore, also in Warwickshire, from the Whitneys of Whitney co. Hereford; this was probably acquired in or before 1672, for he presented to the church in September of that year.<sup>4</sup> He was made a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Warwick 15 July 1689.<sup>5</sup>

He married Mary, one of the daughters and co-heirs of George Cradoek of Caverswall Castle eo. Stafford, Esq., by whom he had five sons and seven daughters. Mary, the eldest daughter, who was baptized 7 May 1663,<sup>6</sup> married Robert Lloyd of Aston

<sup>1</sup> Bishop Bridgeman's Private Ledger.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> The Knights of this order were to wear a silver medal with a device of the King in the oak, pendent to a ribbon about their necks; but it was ultimately considered best to abandon the idea for fear of arousing animosities and needlessly reopening wounds that were already partially healed.

<sup>4</sup> Dugdale's Warwickshire, Thomas's ed., Vol. I, pp. 9, 11.

<sup>5</sup> Original MS. at Weston.

<sup>6</sup> The dates of the baptisms of Sir John Bridgeman's children are taken from the Castle Bromwich Chapel Register.



co. Salop, Esq., M.P. for that county in several Parliaments, by whom she had an only son Robert Lloyd Esq. of Aston, who died unmarried in 1734; she died 25 Aug. 1689, and was buried at Aston in Warwickshire. Judith, the second daughter, who was baptized 20 Oct. 1664, married Richard Corbet of Moreton Corbet co. Salop, Esq., by whom she was the mother of Andrew Corbet of Moreton Corbet Esq., ancestor of the present Sir Walter Corbet, Bart.; she died in June 1700,<sup>1</sup> and was buried at Moreton Corbet. Elizabeth, the third daughter, who was baptized 22 Jan. 1673-4, married Sowdley Eyton of Eyton on the Wildmoors co. Salop, Esq. Dorothy, the fourth daughter, who was baptized 27 July 1675, became the second wife of Lisle Hacket of Moxhull co. Warwick, Esq., and died in 1746,<sup>2</sup> having had by him one daughter Mary, who married Sir Justinian Isham, of Lamport co. Northampton, Bart., and died without issue.<sup>3</sup> Charlotte, a twin with Dorothy, also baptized 27 July 1675, died unmarried 28 Aug. 1750, and was buried at Aston. Bridget, the sixth daughter, who was baptized 6 Feb. 1676-7, died unmarried, and was buried at Clifton. The youngest daughter Penelope, who was baptized 24 Aug. 1682, also died unmarried, 12 Oct. 1746, and was buried at Clifton. Orlando, Sir John Bridgeman's eldest son, who was baptized 17 Dec. 1665, and Thomas his youngest son, who was baptized 25 March 1680, both died very young. The second son was Sir John, his successor. George, the third son, was baptized 6 Jan. 1668-9, and matriculated at Oxford from Oriel College in 1685; the following year he became a student of the Inner Temple,<sup>4</sup> but died unmarried, and was buried at Aston 16 March 1691-2. Orlando, the fourth but second surviving son, who was baptized 22 May 1671, inherited from his father the estate at Clifton upon Dunsmore; he matriculated at Oxford from Oriel College in 1688, and took his B.A. degree in 1691; in 1697 he was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple<sup>5</sup>; and he sat as M.P. for the borough of Wigan from 1698 to 1701, and from 1702 to 1705; he married his cousin Catherine, daughter and eventually heir of William Bridgeman of Combs co. Suffolk, Esq., and had by her one daughter who died young; he seems to have

<sup>1</sup> Draft letters of John Bridgeman Esq., afterwards Sir John Bridgeman, dated 28 June 1700.

<sup>2</sup> MS. letter at Weston.

<sup>3</sup> Burkes Landed Gentry.

<sup>4</sup> Foster's Alumni Oxonienses, 1500-1714.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*





lived a good deal at Westminster, in a house in or near Golden Square, from which he made his will in 1721; he died very shortly afterwards, and was buried at Clifton on 26 Aug. of that year, leaving the Clifton estate to his wife; she died in 1742, and was buried at Clifton by her husband, having left the Clifton property to her brother-in-law Sir John Bridgeman, with remainder to his younger son the Rev. Roger Bridgeman, D.D.<sup>1</sup>

Sir John Bridgeman (the father) resided at Castle Bromwich Hall, a beautiful old Elizabethan mansion still standing, to which he added a handsome porch ornamented with his arms and surmounted by his crest; there he died on 24 Aug. 1710, having just entered his 80th year, and was buried in the parish church at Aston, where a monument was erected to his memory on the south side of the chancel by his daughter Charlotte Bridgeman in the year 1726. On this monument he is described as "a pattern of Christian piety, a tender husband, a most affectionate father, a steady friend, liberal to the poor, and kind to his neighbours"; and that this encomium was not merely the natural and perhaps exaggerated tribute of a dutiful daughter we can the more readily believe when we find his father in his will half a century before speaking of him as having "always been a loving obedient son to me," and expressing his regret at being unable to do for him "as much as he deserves." It may be interesting to Staffordshire readers to note that both father and son took their part in the restoration of the Cathedral at Lichfield in 1663; for in Sir Andrew Hacket's Register of the contributors to that good work occur the following entries: "Mr. John Bridgeman, Castle-Bromwich, £20"; "Lord Chief Justice Bridgman, £50."<sup>2</sup> Carrying out the expressed desire and intentions of his father, Sir John Bridgeman was a generous benefactor of the Church in other ways; for he not only increased the value of the benefice of Teddington, but bequeathed the rectorial tithes of Castle Bromwich in Warwickshire and Plemstall in Cheshire, part of those of Clifton in Warwickshire, and his interest in those of Bolton-le-Moors in Lancashire (which he held on lease from the Bishop of Chester) to the churches of those parishes respectively, all four of which were in his patronage.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> There is a picture of Mr. Orlando Bridgeman of Clifton, by Dahl, at Weston, and portraits of him, of his wife, and of two of his sisters, Judith Mrs. Corbet and Elizabeth Mrs. Eyton, at Castle Bromwich.

<sup>2</sup> Harwood's Hist. of Lichfield, p. 60.

<sup>3</sup> There is a portrait of Sir John Bridgeman at Weston, and another at Castle Bromwich, the former being by J. Victor.



Dame Mary Bridgeman survived her husband about three years, and dying on 30 Dec. 1713, aged 73,<sup>1</sup> was buried by him at Aston. She left by her will a sum of £500 to be laid out in the purchase of an estate, the income from which she desired should be devoted to various pious and charitable uses for the benefit of the hamlet of Castle Bromwich.

Sir John Bridgeman (II), their second but eldest surviving son, who succeeded his father as 3rd Baronet, was born 9 Aug. 1667,<sup>2</sup> and baptized six days later, on 15 Aug.<sup>3</sup> He matriculated at Oxford from Oriel College 25 Aug. 1685, and became a student of the Inner Temple in 1689.<sup>4</sup> On 19 June 1694<sup>5</sup> he was married to Ursula, daughter and sole heir of Roger Matthews of Blodwell co. Salop, Esq., by whom he had issue five sons and two daughters. Of the sons, Orlando, the eldest, succeeded his father. The second, John, was born 23 Dec. 1696,<sup>6</sup> and died in infancy. The third, Roger, who was born 20 Oct. 1700, matriculated at Oxford from Oriel College 4 July 1718, taking his degree there as B.A. in 1722, and as M.A. in 1725; he was afterwards elected a fellow of Oriel, and took his degree as D.D. in 1736.<sup>7</sup> Having been ordained in 1725, he became in 1727 Rector of Plemstall in Cheshire and Minister of Castle Bromwich in Warwickshire, both of which livings were then donatives in the gift of his father. In 1737 he was nominated to the vicarage of Bolton-le-Moors, and in 1741 he was preferred to the rectory of Wigan. Dr. Roger Bridgeman appears to have been of a kind and amiable disposition, and was greatly beloved by all his family. He died unmarried at Talk-o'th' Hill,<sup>8</sup> and was buried at Wigan 20 June 1750,<sup>9</sup> when the estate at Clifton which he had inherited from his father passed to his nephew Mr. George Bridgeman, a younger son of his brother Sir Orlando.<sup>10</sup> Sir John Bridgeman's fourth son, John, who

<sup>1</sup> Sir John Bridgeman's monument in Aston Church.

<sup>2</sup> Entry in his own Family Bible, in the possession of the Earl of Bradford.

<sup>3</sup> Castle Bromwich Chapel Reg.

<sup>4</sup> Foster's Alumni Oxonienses, 1500-1714.

<sup>5</sup> Sir John Bridgeman's Family Bible.

<sup>6</sup> The dates of birth of Sir John Bridgeman's children are all taken from entries in his own handwriting in his Family Bible.

<sup>7</sup> Foster's Alumni Oxonienses, 1715-1886.

<sup>8</sup> MS. Pedigree, dated 1812, in the possession of the Earl of Bradford.

<sup>9</sup> Wigan Par. Reg.

<sup>10</sup> For a fuller account of Dr. Roger Bridgeman see Canon Bridgeman's Hist. of the Church and Manor of Wigan, pp. 624-634.



was born 22 Aug. 1705, and educated at Merton College, Oxford, where he matriculated 23 April 1724, afterwards became a barrister-at-law; he too died unmarried in or about the year 1762.<sup>1</sup> George, the youngest son, who was born 9 March 1707-8, died when about 10 years old, and was buried in the church at Llanyblodwell under the window in the north chancel, where a monument was placed to his memory with this inscription: "*Infra jacet sepultus Georgius filius natu quartus Johannis Bridgeman Baronetti, juvenis eximie indolis qui futura virtutis et literaturae spem magnam pollicebatur. Heu vero supremum obiit diem, et nestos desiderii sui reliquit parentes 16<sup>o</sup> Septembris Anno domini 1717<sup>o</sup>, aetatis suae 10<sup>o</sup>.*" Sir John's eldest daughter, Ursula, who was born 29 Sept. 1698, was married 16 May 1724<sup>2</sup> to Hugh Williams Esq., M.P. for Anglesey, eldest son of John 2nd son of Sir William Williams of Glascoed and Llanvorda, Bart., by whom she had one son John who died an infant; Mrs. Williams died 30 Oct. 1728, and was buried in Sir John Bridgeman's vault at Aston.<sup>3</sup> Judith, the other daughter, was born 28 June 1702, and died unmarried 5 Nov. 1783; she seems to have been a dutiful and attentive daughter to her father, and lived with him till his death, when she went to reside in London.

Sir John Bridgeman was consistently kind and affectionate to his relations, to several of whom he was of great service; and the MS. books (now in the possession of the Earl of Bradford), in which he kept a copy of the letters he wrote, show how much time he spent, and how much trouble he took, in promoting their interests as well as those of his humbler friends and dependents. He was an excellent father, and was careful to train up his children in the paths of honour and virtue. On the occasion of his eldest son's going to Oxford he took the greatest pains to secure for him a good tutor, and one who would be likely to render his pupil proficient in what he styles "the two grand articles of the Scholar and the Gentleman;" this appears by the number of letters he wrote on the subject to his friends at Oxford and elsewhere, of which the following, addressed "To Dr. King of Merton Coll. in Oxford y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> of Jany 1711" (1712), is a specimen:

<sup>1</sup> Foster's Alumni Oxonienses, 1715-1886.

<sup>2</sup> Sir John Bridgeman's Family Bible.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*





“ Sr

Hearing by Mr. Humphreys & some of your other Shropshire friends y<sup>t</sup> you design'd seeing of us this summer made me hope I shoud have had a personal oppertunity to have discours'd you about placing my son in Oxford. New Coll. is most recommended to me and I am at present inclin'd to it if I am encourag'd by y<sup>e</sup> hopes of a good Tutor therefore desire y<sup>e</sup> favour of you to enquire who is the best qualify'd for that charge & that he may not be a party man nor one that is furious for such a temper infus'd do's often prove dangerous and troublesome. I thank God I have all the encouragement y<sup>t</sup> I can wish for to hope that my son will endeavour to improve himself and submit to wise conduct. I am satisfied Mr. Webster has taken indefatigable pains with him and has grounded him in right and regular principles & I have nothing more at heart than to have my son brought up vertuously & to be kept close to y<sup>e</sup> Doctrine and Discipline of y<sup>e</sup> Church of England. I design to bring him up soon after Easter: one of my nephews if not more will be put under y<sup>e</sup> same tutor y<sup>t</sup> I pitch on for him if I desire it: a very happy new year is wish'd you by S<sup>r</sup>

Your obliged humble servant

J: B:

I desire y<sup>e</sup> favour of an answer to this as soon as you can. Pray direct for me at Blodwell near Oswaldstrey Shropshire.<sup>1</sup>

Not content with these precautions he prepared a long paper of “ memorandums to advise Lando ” before commencing his University career, in the following terms:—

“ To receive y<sup>e</sup> Sacrement at all times y<sup>t</sup> tis to be had in y<sup>e</sup> chapel, or w<sup>h</sup> there is publick notice given of it.

Not to neglect Publick and privet prayers, & w<sup>h</sup> at y<sup>m</sup> to be devout & answer y<sup>e</sup> responces so lowd as they y<sup>t</sup> are next y<sup>h</sup> may hear you.

To keep good hours & y<sup>e</sup> coll: rules in all respects, and by y<sup>t</sup> means you'l be fit for an early study in y<sup>e</sup> morning, & to keep y<sup>e</sup> hours appointed by y<sup>r</sup> Tutor, by doing so you'l avoid many inconveniencys y<sup>t</sup> frequently happens to those y<sup>t</sup> are often out of there one coll:

Not to play at dice nor any other game w<sup>h</sup> y<sup>h</sup> ought to be at y<sup>r</sup> studys nor let y<sup>r</sup> divertions be in anything y<sup>t</sup> is not fit for y<sup>r</sup> gown.

Not to frequent Balls nor to keep company with those y<sup>t</sup> are said to be given to women or any other debouchery, neither be guilty of y<sup>m</sup> y<sup>r</sup>self.

<sup>1</sup> Draft letter of Sir John Bridgeman.



Not to promise any Living to any Person.

Not to accept to be a second nor to duel any Person y<sup>r</sup>self.

Not to be bound for any Person nor promise to see there debt paid.

To pay y<sup>r</sup> one bills at least every month and to take acquaintances in full on y<sup>e</sup> back of y<sup>m</sup> & see y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>u</sup> are crost out of there books & never go into y<sup>m</sup> w<sup>n</sup> you can avoid it.

Not to engage in any dispute in State affairs, for times are so hot now y<sup>t</sup> tis dangerous to do it & by disputing 'twill disoblige one side or other, & 'twill add to y<sup>e</sup> Pleasure of living in y<sup>e</sup> coll: to be silent & not to joyn with any party, neither be influenced by y<sup>e</sup> furious of either side for y<sup>t</sup> will produce in you an unchristian temper & disagreeable in y<sup>r</sup> conversation to y<sup>r</sup> best friends.

Always to be patient with those who contradict or differ from y<sup>u</sup> in y<sup>r</sup> sentiments, y<sup>t</sup> will be speak a good judgment & a command of y<sup>r</sup> self & will be y<sup>e</sup> greatest inducement to engage persons to be y<sup>r</sup> true & real friends, & remember w<sup>t</sup> Solomon saith a soft answer turneth away wroth & advises to let go contention before it be medled with & as Plutarch says where two discourse, if y<sup>e</sup> one's anger rise y<sup>e</sup> man who lets y<sup>e</sup> contest fall is wise.

Patiently to hear w<sup>t</sup> y<sup>u</sup> may be charg'd with before y<sup>u</sup> answer for y<sup>r</sup>self & never seem uneasy at y<sup>e</sup> rebuke or advice y<sup>t</sup> is given y<sup>u</sup> but calmly consider how far y<sup>u</sup> may be guilty of y<sup>e</sup> charge & wisely improve it to y<sup>r</sup> advantage, & if you are wrongd if it be told y<sup>u</sup> by a friend be thankfull, & if by an enemy y<sup>u</sup> may also turn it to be benefitall to y<sup>u</sup>.

Not to ring bells nor any violent exercises, nor drink in y<sup>e</sup> bellfree.

If anything discomposes or preses on y<sup>u</sup> 'twill be prudent in y<sup>u</sup> to discover it to y<sup>r</sup> Tutor or who y<sup>u</sup> can confide in for they may by there advice either remove it or lessen it.

Indever y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>r</sup> Temper may be of an even cheerfullness and not of a moros reservdness for if such a Temper be indulg'd you'l find it will be very prejudicial to y<sup>r</sup> one intrest and make y<sup>r</sup> person not cared for and y<sup>r</sup> conversation disagreeable, but not to be haughty or dispise those below y<sup>u</sup> but prudently affable and obliging for by y<sup>r</sup> carage to such y<sup>r</sup> real Temper will be very much gesed at.

When y<sup>r</sup> learning encreases take care y<sup>t</sup> it dos not raise in y<sup>u</sup> to great an oppinion of y<sup>r</sup>self or speaking more y<sup>u</sup> becomes y<sup>u</sup>, if y<sup>u</sup> do you'l loose y<sup>e</sup> improvement of hearing y<sup>e</sup> sentiments of those y<sup>t</sup> are more learned and wiser y<sup>n</sup> y<sup>r</sup>self.

To assotiate with those y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>r</sup> Tutor recommends to y<sup>u</sup> and take all oportunities of being in his company, show him y<sup>r</sup> booksellers bill before y<sup>u</sup> pay it.

To eat but moderate breakfast and drink nothing stronger in a morning y<sup>n</sup> table bear and not to loiter in y<sup>e</sup> buttrey.



To be allways in y<sup>e</sup> eoll: before y<sup>e</sup> gates are locked at night and to go to bed betimes for y<sup>t</sup> will preserve y<sup>r</sup> health and fit y<sup>u</sup> for an early study in y<sup>e</sup> morning.

Not to rid out without y<sup>r</sup> man except y<sup>r</sup> tutor is with y<sup>u</sup> and w<sup>n</sup>ever y<sup>u</sup> do to rid modirately.

Not lie down in company tho' in y<sup>r</sup> one chamber for y<sup>e</sup> reasons I have told y<sup>u</sup>.

To assotiate y<sup>r</sup>self with those y<sup>t</sup> are y<sup>r</sup> equals & above y<sup>u</sup> & not those below y<sup>u</sup>.

W<sup>n</sup> you are not well and cannot compose y<sup>r</sup>self to be chearfull excuse it and go off, for by staying and being dul will be speak y<sup>u</sup> to be out of humer & so not fit for company.

Not to go out with eos: W: W: to any of his divertions for he being noted for spending to much time in y<sup>m</sup> it will be soon said y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>u</sup> are as fond of y<sup>m</sup> as he if y<sup>u</sup> do not carry y<sup>r</sup>self carfully in y<sup>t</sup> respect and in all other things relating to him.

Not to be seen on Sundays and fast days in any Publick plaeces espeecially in Taver[n]s vietualing houses alehouses or coffey houses.

W<sup>n</sup> y<sup>u</sup> are not well to be sure to be free in telling eomplaints in time to y<sup>r</sup> Tutor & Cole.<sup>1</sup>

Lend no money to those y<sup>t</sup> are raelis or y<sup>u</sup> have reason to believe will not pay y<sup>u</sup>, & if those y<sup>u</sup> lend to refuses to pay y<sup>u</sup> in due time to threaten y<sup>m</sup> y<sup>t</sup> you'l inform there tutor.

Not to be two free in lending y<sup>r</sup> riding things but those y<sup>t</sup> will be puntual in restoring y<sup>m</sup>.

To read some part of y<sup>e</sup> Bible ever[y] day and make use of those devotial books y<sup>r</sup> mother gave y<sup>u</sup>.

To go frequently to y<sup>e</sup> Publick exereises of y<sup>e</sup> Schooles & theatre.

Y<sup>u</sup> must not put Cole on carring any bottles &c. in publik.

To be sure to have a great regard to y<sup>e</sup> advice of those I esteem my friends w<sup>n</sup> they speak or write to you.

To have patience to hear Coles advice to y<sup>u</sup> & to think of it after its given & to remember y<sup>t</sup> it is given by one y<sup>t</sup> has lived long with me & loves us all.

W<sup>n</sup>ever y<sup>u</sup> play at any game let it be for a small mater and likewise y<sup>r</sup> betts, be pleasant at it & if y<sup>u</sup> think y<sup>u</sup> are wrong'd argue it ealmly or you'l expose y<sup>r</sup>self tho' y<sup>u</sup> be in right, those y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>u</sup> find are not fare in there gams avoid playing with y<sup>m</sup>.

Advise y<sup>r</sup> eosens if you see or hear they do any thing y<sup>t</sup> may blast there reputation & 'tis very likely they will take it kindly w<sup>n</sup> they maturly think of it, if not you'l oblige there parents by it.

<sup>1</sup> His servant, Samuel Cole, who had served his father in the same capacity when he was an undergraduate at Oxford.





Whenever Mr. Webster advises y<sup>u</sup> always believe y<sup>r</sup> a good wise & an affect friend who is hearty in y<sup>r</sup> intrest y<sup>a</sup> gives y<sup>u</sup> advice, & to slight it & not take it will prove very prejudicial to y<sup>u</sup> and by it give y<sup>r</sup> pretended & insinuating friends an opportunity to gain there ends of y<sup>u</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> will certainly give y<sup>u</sup> cause to repent y<sup>r</sup> imprudence.<sup>1</sup>

Sir John resided during his earlier married life at his wife's seat at Blodwell near Oswestry in Shropshire, where he kept a pack of beagles; and it was here that all his children were born. After the death of his parents he lived principally at Castle Bromwich, the house at Blodwell being given up to his eldest son upon his marriage with Lady Anne Newport. The old hall at Blodwell was pulled down some time in the last century by an agent (without the knowledge of his employer and very much to the latter's annoyance), in order that what he thought a more commodious mansion might be built in its place; a farmhouse now occupies the site, and scarcely anything exists to shew what it was in Sir John Bridgeman's time but the remains of the entrance gateway and an old summer-house in the garden, which is very much in the style of those erected by him at Castle Bromwich, and like them has upon it the Bridgeman and Matthews crests; but the park, which though unenclosed is still in great measure untouched by the plough, is situated in one of the most beautiful and romantic spots in England. Sir John also rebuilt the chapel at Castle Bromwich, and arranged and improved the gardens at the old hall there. He was put on the Commission of the Peace for Shropshire in 1710,<sup>2</sup> but with the help of the Earl of Bradford, with whom he appears to have been on terms of great friendship, he contrived during his residence in Shropshire to evade the expensive and burdensome office of the shrievalty. Although he seems to have taken a prominent part in the political life of the county of Salop, he never sat for it in Parliament; he was pressed by Lord Newport and other friends to come forward as a candidate, but he declined to do so, and characteristically preferred to do what he could to compose what he termed "the unhappy differences of this county," some of those closely related to him having taken opposite sides in politics.

Sir John died at Castle Bromwich on 21 July 1747,<sup>3</sup> having almost completed his 80th year. Dame Ursula, his wife, died many years before him, on 31 Jan. 1719-20, being then 48 years

<sup>1</sup> MS. paper in the possession of the Earl of Bradford.

<sup>2</sup> Draft letters of Sir John Bridgeman.

<sup>3</sup> Sir John Bridgeman's monument in Blodwell Church.



of age.<sup>1</sup> They were both buried in the parish church at Blodwell, where two handsome monuments to their memory may be seen, their many good and amiable qualities being described with a fulness of detail more common in those times than in our own. Their surviving daughter, Judith, caused these inscriptions to be copied on two large marble tablets, which she erected in the chapel, now the parish church, of Castle Bromwich.<sup>2</sup>

Sir Orlando Bridgeman, 4th Baronet, was born at Blodwell on Tuesday 2 April 1695, "and was christned privatly in Blodwell house on Wensday was semnight following, and afterwards brought on Thursday the 18th of April to Blodwell Church, to be there publickly christned by Mr. Humphrys Vicar, witness my Father & Sir William Williams Godfathers and my mother Mathews Godmother," as it is entered in Sir John's Family Bible. His early education, as well as that of his brothers, was superintended by Mr. Webster, the Rector of Knoekin, where he was placed at school with the sons of Sir Arthur Owen of Orielton, his cousins the Corbets, and others of the neighbouring gentry. Sir John appears to have taken an almost paternal interest in these Corbet-nephews, whose mother (his sister) had died some years before when they were both very young; and they themselves were evidently great favourites with their cousins at Blodwell, for we find Sir John telling their father in a letter that the appearance of his servant at Blodwell Hall, to take them home again after a Christmas visit, had "put a mighty damp upon the rest of the sparks," and begging him to let them remain where they were for the rest of the holidays. Orlando Bridgeman remained under Mr. Webster's charge till he was removed to Oxford in the spring of 1712, when he was entered as a gentleman-commoner of New College under the care of the Rev. Mr. Scott, fellow of New College; Mr. Scott was also tutor to his cousin Andrew Corbet,<sup>3</sup> and he seems to have acquired the good will of both his pupils. The following letter from Sir John to Dame Mary Bridgeman, his mother, dated "y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> of june 1712," acquaints her with his having placed them at the University:—

<sup>1</sup> Dame Ursula Bridgeman's monument in Blodwell Church.

<sup>2</sup> There are pictures of Sir John Bridgeman both at Castle Bromwich and at Weston, the latter by Closterman.

<sup>3</sup> Andrew Corbet, eldest son of Richard Corbet of Moreton Corbet Esq., and ancestor of the present Sir Walter Corbet.







*Hinterbank.*

*Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Bart.*

*of Castle Bromwich*

*born 1695. — died 1761.*





“Most Hon<sup>rd</sup> Madam,

I did fully design to have writ to your Lady's last post but y<sup>e</sup> company came in and prevented me. Since I came home I understand y<sup>t</sup> my Sister Eyton writ to me by your Ladys<sup>ps</sup> orders to make Castle Bromwich my way baek from Oxon: had your Ladys<sup>ps</sup> commands reach'd me I would certainly obey'd them. I left your Ladys<sup>ps</sup> Grandsons very well pleas'd with the Colleges they are in and the Tutors they are placed under & it gives me great satisfaction in the belief that all that I wish'd for has been procur'd for them. I hope God will keep them from vice and all things that will lessen them in the esteem of there true friends: all of them have entire appartments to themselves and gently furnish'd, Nev Andrew and Lando are in New College and under the care of one Mr. Scot, Vin<sup>l</sup>: in Trinity, his Tutors name is Barber: their are several Shropshire Gentlemen in that house. I was very highly entertain'd in both Colleges, the first admits of no Commoners, 'tis a full Genteel Society and in my opinion the compleatest College in Town, and M<sup>r</sup> Scot answers the Character that I rec<sup>d</sup> from several of him in his being a person of great Learning and of a very Gentlemanlike behaviour.

Though he was admitted a student of the Inner Temple in the year 1713, M<sup>r</sup> Orlando Bridgeman remained at Oxford till July 1716. It was his father's original intention that he should take his degree there; but apparently this was never carried out, Sir John afterwards deciding that it would be better for him to go abroad and see the world. He accordingly sailed for Holland in the following August in the company of a certain Captain Thomas, a fellow of New College, whom his father had selected as his travelling companion, and landed at the Hague, from whence he passed through Amsterdam to Hanover, arriving there some time in November. King George I and his Court were then at Hanover, whither he had gone to visit his German dominions, and the young traveller seems to have been thrown a great deal into thé society of the Prince, and mentions having had the honour of frequently dining and supping with him. It was intended that he should have remained abroad throughout the winter and extended his travels to France; but the following letter from his father, dated 22 Jan. 1716-17, brought him back to London at the latter end of that month:

<sup>1</sup> Vincent Corbet, Andrew's brother, and second son of Mr. Richard Corbet of Moreton Corbet.



“ Dear Lando

It is my opinion that your seeing of France may be for your Improvement, and that was the ground and Reason of what I mentioned to you about it, but for your Grandmothers satisfaction, who you know, is very Aged, and is most desirous to see you, your Mother and I think it convenient you should Return without enlarging your travels at this time,” &c., &c.

The lady alluded to in this letter was his grandmother Mrs. Matthews, then about seventy-two years of age; she lived however many years after this, and died in 1736 at the great age of ninety-two, having survived her husband no less than sixty-three years.<sup>1</sup>

In the following winter, 1717-18, Mr. Orlando Bridgeman made proposals (through his father according to the usual custom of those days) for the hand of Lady Anne Newport, second daughter of Richard Earl of Bradford, a match which was highly approved of by both families. Sir John in a letter to his brother Orlando Bridgeman of Clifton, dated 28 Jan. 1717-18, announces the engagement in the following terms :

“ Dear Brother

Before this reaches you I don't doubt but that your Nephew will have acquainted you of the proposal for him to Lady Anne Newport, the friday before he set out for London my Lord Bradford in a very obliging Letter let me know that he accepted of the offer, the Ladys very good and prudent education gives me great hopes that Lando and our family will be happy if it be a Union; I desire you will not impart this to any Person but my Sister for I am well assur'd that that Family in all such concerns are very much for secrecy: my Wife gives you service, pray present both ours to my Sister. I am sincerely Dear Brother your most affec<sup>to</sup> Brother and servant

J: B:”

They were married at St. Ann's, Soho, on 9 April 1719;<sup>2</sup> and by this marriage the manor of Weston and other estates in Staffordshire belonging to the Newports passed eventually to the family of Bridgeman. Lady Anne however did not live to succeed to them, her brother, the last Earl of Bradford of that creation, surviving her; as already noticed,<sup>3</sup> this Earl was of unsound mind, and during his tenure Sir Orlando Bridge-

<sup>1</sup> Monument in Blodwell Church.

<sup>2</sup> Sir John Bridgeman's Family Bible.

<sup>3</sup> See *ante*, p. 193.



man, as he had by that time become, had together with the Countess of Mountrath the management of the property on his behalf. Sir Orlando had however in the year 1742, as Orlando Bridgeman of Blodwell co. Salop, Esq., purchased from Mr. John Skrymsher and others, for the sum of £3550, the "manor or reputed manor of Orslow, with the farm and premises thereto belonging," which adjoined, and now forms part of, the Weston estate.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Orlando Bridgeman was returned as member for the borough of Shrewsbury in the Parliament elected in 1722, the return being amended by an order of the House dated 9 April 1723, by which the names of Corbet Kynaston Esq. and Richard Lyster Esq. were erased, and those of Orlando Bridgeman Esq. and Sir Richard Corbet, Bart., substituted in their place.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Bridgeman continued to sit for Shrewsbury till 1727. He was made a Deputy Lieutenant of the county of Salop 14 April 1745, Lord Herbert of Cherbury being then Lord Lieutenant.

Sir Orlando succeeded to his father's baronetcy and the family estates in 1747, having in all probability become possessed of his mother's property in Shropshire many years before. He died at his house in St. James's Square, London, 25 July 1764,<sup>3</sup> and was buried at Weston.<sup>4</sup> Lady Anne his wife died 19 Aug. 1752,<sup>5</sup> and was also buried at Weston.<sup>6</sup> They had issue four sons and two daughters. Of the daughters, Mary, the eldest, who was born in Soho Square 15 Aug. 1722,<sup>7</sup> died in infancy, and was buried in St. Ann's Church, Westminster. The other daughter, Diana, was born in Warwick Street near Golden Square on 26 Sept. 1726;<sup>8</sup> she was married 15 Nov. 1763<sup>9</sup> to John Sawbridge of Olantigh co. Kent, Esq., but died a few months afterwards on 21 Jan. 1764,<sup>10</sup> and was buried at Wye co. Kent. John, the eldest son, was born in Soho Square 14 Oct. 1723; he died 20 Sept. 1724, and was buried by his sister in St. Ann's Church, Westminster.<sup>11</sup> Henry, the second son, succeeded his father. George, the third son, was born in Warwick Street 25 Dec. 1727;<sup>12</sup> after going up to Queen's

<sup>1</sup> Canon Bridgeman's Hist. of Church Eaton, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 2, p. 50.

<sup>2</sup> Return of Members of Parliament, 1878.

<sup>3</sup> Monument in Weston Church.

<sup>5</sup> Monument in Weston Church.

<sup>7</sup> Sir John Bridgeman's Family Bible.

<sup>9</sup> MS. Pedigree of 1812.

<sup>11</sup> Sir John Bridgeman's Family Bible.

<sup>4</sup> Weston Par. Reg.

<sup>6</sup> Weston Par. Reg.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*





College, Cambridge, he entered the army, getting his commission as ensign in the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards 29 July 1751, and as lieutenant 13 June 1756<sup>1</sup>; he was celebrated for his taste in landscape gardening, and Pope had originally introduced his name into his "Epistle on Taste" as a perfect judge of that art, but omitted it at his own request; he was Surveyor of the Royal Gardens, and it was he who laid out the greater part of the gardens at Kensington, after they had been extended by the addition of about 300 acres taken in from from Hyde Park by Queen Charlotte<sup>2</sup>; he died unmarried at Lisbon 26 Dec. 1767,<sup>3</sup> and was buried at Weston on 24 March 1768.<sup>4</sup> Orlando, the fourth son, who was born in Warwick Street 22 Jan. 1729–30,<sup>5</sup> died young.

There are portraits at Weston of both Sir Orlando and Lady Anne Bridgeman, by Vanderbank, and another of the former by F. Cotes, taken much later in life. The two first are reproduced in this work. There is also at Weston a picture of their son Mr. George Bridgeman in the uniform of the Grenadier Guards, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, and one by F. Cotes of their daughter Diana.

SIR HENRY BRIDGEMAN, 5th Baronet, was born in Golden Square in the parish of St. James's, Westminster, on 7 Sept. 1725; his sponsors were Henry Earl of Bradford, Edward Lord Dudley, and his great-grandmother Mrs. Matthews.<sup>6</sup> Shortly before his birth the direct male line of the family of Bridgeman was in considerable danger of coming to an end; for we read in the "Whitehall Evening Post" of 7 Aug. 1725 the following account: "In the same Square [Soho Square] on Saturday last, between 9 and 10 in the Morning, two Houses fell down, one whereof was lately inhabited by Captain Cary, but was now empty; the other was Mr. Bridgeman's House, son to Sir Orlando [Sir John] Bridgeman, who married the Lady Anne, eldest daughter of the late Earl of Bradford, now great with Child, and near her time of

<sup>1</sup> Mr. George Bridgeman's MS. Drill Book, dated 1752, an interesting relic of the army of those days, with its antiquated phraseology and its cumbrous evolutions, is now in the possession of Col. the Hon. Francis Bridgeman, who has erected a small brass tablet to his memory in the Royal Military Chapel, Wellington Barracks.

<sup>2</sup> Lysons' *Environs of London*, Vol. III, p. 184.

<sup>3</sup> MS. Pedigree of 1812. Mr. George Bridgeman inherited the Clifton estate on the death of his uncle, Dr. Roger Bridgeman. From him it passed to his brother, Sir Henry, by whom it was afterwards sold.

<sup>4</sup> Weston Par. Reg.

<sup>5</sup> Sir John Bridgeman's Family Bible.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*





*Vanderhaegh sc.*

*Lady Anne Newport.*  
*wife of Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Bart.*  
*born 1690 ~ died 1752.*





Lying in: The Lady being in this condition, and in Bed, was carried out backwards by a servant, that perceived the House crack on the fore part; but her Housekeeper was unfortunately killed. This sad accident is said to have been occasioned by the houses not being sufficiently shored up by the Workmen, who were enlarging the Vaults underneath the Front." We may presume this account to have been substantially correct, but the child does not seem to have been born until nearly a month later.

It was Sir Orlando's original intention, when his son's school days were over, to have sent him to his own University of Oxford, as we learn from a letter of Sir John Bridgeman's dated 5 May 1742, which says: "I . . . shall be glad to hear of Harry's being plac'd at Oxon under the care of a carefull and faithfull Tutor (as you promis'd me when here), and a proper school for George to prepare him in due time for University Learning will be a great Pleasure to me in the Evening of my Age; that God Almighty may direct you in the placing my Dear Grandchildren so as may be best for their improvement and being usefull and a credit to the world is the fervent prayers of Dear Son your very affec<sup>t</sup> father J. B." But it was ultimately decided that he should become a member of the University which had trained and nourished his more remote ancestors Bishop Bridgeman and the Lord Keeper, and accordingly he was entered in 1744 as a fellow-commoner at Queen's College, Cambridge,<sup>1</sup> where he took his degree as M.A. in 1747.<sup>2</sup>

On the death of Thomas Newport, Earl of Bradford, on 18 April 1762 his estates passed to his sister, Diana Countess of Mountrath, and his nephew, Henry Bridgeman, Esq., as coparceners in tail. After barring the entail they joined in a deed of partition, dated 29 October 1763, in which it was recited that they had authorised Richard Hankins of Lyon's Inn co. Middlesex and Walter Stubbs of Beekbury co. Salop to survey these estates and to make a partition of them into two lots to be specified in two schedules, one to be marked "Weston" and the other "Walsall," which were to be "inclosed and sealed up by them in two sheets or covers of parchment or paper of an equal size and bigness and then put into a bag or box and from thence to be taken and drawn out by a child or other indifferent person one after another" in the presence

<sup>1</sup> *Ex inf.* Rev. H. E. Ryle, D.D., President of Queen's College, Cambridge.

<sup>2</sup> "Graduati Cantabrigienses," 1659-1823.





of the parties or their representatives, the cover first drawn out to be delivered to Lady Mountrath and the other to Mr Henry Bridgeman. The deed further recites that this mode of allotment was carried out, and that the Walsall lot fell to Lady Mountrath and that of Weston to Mr. Henry Bridgeman. The Walsall lot included the manor of Walsall and lands there and in the hamlet of Bentley in the parish of Wolverhampton, the advowson of Walsall vicarage, the manor of Tamhorne and lands in Tamhorne and Fisherwick and in the several parishes of St. Michael in Lichfield, Whittington, Elford and Tamworth, two-fifths of the manor of Newton<sup>1</sup> and lands in the parish of Blithfield, the manor of Bobbington and lands there, and lands in Little Onn in the parish of Church Eaton.<sup>2</sup> The Weston lot comprised the manor of Weston, the mansion house, gardens, parks, demesne lands and other lands etc. there, and the advowson of Weston; also a moiety of the manor and advowson of Blynhill and lands there. The following description is taken from the schedule to this deed marked "Weston":—

"All that the manor of Weston under Liziard } with the rents, royalties, members and appurten- } ances thereof, and also all those houses, cottages, } and other buildings erected and gardens and other } inclosures made upon the several wasts of the said } manor, which inclosed lands amount in the whole } to four acres one rood and seventeen perches or } thereabouts and are of the present yearly value of... }	5 0
Also all that capital messuage or mansion house } called Weston Hall with the buildings thereunto } adjoining or belonging of the supposed yearly value } of ... .. }	50 0 0

<sup>1</sup> This would evidently be the two-fifths of Newton included in the purchase by Adam de Peshale from Stephen de Bromley in 1373, that is to say, the *Champion* and *Whyston* shares (see *ante*, pp. 73, 74).

<sup>2</sup> The whole of the Walsall lot (with the exception of the manor and advowson of Walsall and lands there and at Bentley, which Lady Mountrath devised to her son Charles Henry 7th and last Earl of Mountrath, and which under his will passed to his cousin Orlando Lord Bradford, afterwards Earl of Bradford, but including the manors of Tamhorne and Bobbington, two-fifths of the manor of Newton, and the lands in Tamhorne, Fisherwick, Lichfield, Whittington, Elford, Tamworth, Blithfield, Bobbington and Little Onn), were left by Lady Mountrath on her death in 1766 away from her own son to the Damers and Cavendishes (Canon Bridgeman's *Hist. of Church Eaton*, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 2, pp. 95, 96).



Also all those gardens called Weston Hall }  
 Gardens together with the two parks and the } 452 18 0  
 demesne lands in Weston aforesaid of the supposed }  
 yearly value of.....

Also all those several messuages water mills farms lands tenements and hereditaments in Weston aforesaid now or late in the respective occupations of the several persons and of the supposed yearly values hereinafter severally and respectively mentioned (that is to say):

Mr. John Paddey	...	32	18	6
Mr. Francis Paddey	...	67	5	9
Sannuel Altree	...	128	3	0
William Aleoek	...	32	2	0
The Widow Hand	...	71	6	3
Edward Blakemore	...	75	0	9
Joseph Blakemore	...	8	6	3
Richard Masfield	...	58	15	3
Matthew Phillips	...	24	16	0
The Widow Blakemore	...	7	14	0
Richard Davies	...	2	15	0
Francis Paine	...	4	8	0
Reverend Mr. Williams	...	4	19	0
Thomas Foster	...	76	9	0
William Taylor	...	20	18	0

And also all that warren called Weston Warren of the supposed yearly value of 72 1 6

687 17 3

Total of the supposed yearly value }  
 of Weston estate ... .. } 1191 0 3

The advowson of the Rectory of }  
 Weston supposed to be one hundred } 600 0 0  
 pounds per annum at six years pur- }  
 chase is valued at ... .. }

The total of the supposed value of }  
 the timber and wood on the estate } 11584 16 8  
 in Weston parish ... .. }

The supposed value of the deer in }  
 the two parks at Weston ... .. } 566 15 0

The total of the supposed value }  
 of the advowson timber and wood } 12751 11 8  
 and deer at Weston ... .. }



Also all that the moiety of the manor of Blym-  
hill with the rents royalties members and appur-  
tenances thereof, the yearly chief rents whereof are  
supposed to be ... .. } 1 3

Also all those several messuages farms lands  
tenements and hereditaments in Blymhill now or  
late in the respective occupations of the several  
persons and of the supposed yearly values hereinafter  
severally and respectively mentioned (that is  
to say)

	William Taylor ... ..	49 10 0	
	George Bradburn ... ..	62 15 6	
	Thomas Spilsbury ... ..	51 19 6	
	William Leeke ... ..	24 15 3	
	William Lawrence ... ..	19 18 3	
	Thomas Ward ... ..	30 9 9	
	Sarah Meeson ... ..	6 9	
	Thomas White ... ..	2 5 0	
	Elizabeth Sawyer ... ..	2 3	
	John Adams ... ..	3 0 9	
	William Cross ... ..	20 2 9	
	Samuel Atree ... ..	1 4 9	
Brineton } in Blymhill } parish }	Alice Fletcher ... ..	58 14 6	
	William Pooler late John Fletcher ... ..	10 2 6	
	William Pooler late John Ofley ... ..	51 10 6	
	Thomas James ... ..	46 9 3	
		<hr/>	433 7 0
	Total of the supposed yearly value of Blymhill estate ... .. }		433 8 3

A moiety of the advowson of the  
Rectory of Blymhill supposed to be  
one hundred and thirty pounds per  
annum at six years purchase is  
valued at ... .. } 390 0 0

The supposed value of the timber  
and wood on the said estate in  
Blymhill parish ... .. } 1941 1 4

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The total of the supposed value of a moiety of the advowson and of the timber and wood at Blymhill }	}	2331	1	4	
The total of Weston [i.e. yearly value] }	}	1191	0	3	
The total of Blymhill[i.e. yearly value] }	}	433	8	3	
					£1624 8 6"

This is followed by a "state of Weston and Walsall Lotts," in which the capitalized value of the advowsons, timber, etc. together with the total yearly rentals in each lot are brought out as exactly balancing one another, but having regard to the decreasing value of the timber on the Weston lot and the time required to convert it into money an allowance of £476 14s. 9d. is directed to be paid by the owner of the Walsall lot to the owner of the Weston lot for equality of partition.

Sir Henry Bridgeman, as he shortly afterwards became, spent a considerable sum of money, more than twelve thousand pounds, as appears by a contemporary statement of accounts in the possession of the Earl of Bradford, in improvements to the house and alterations and additions to the gardens at Weston; he expended over five hundred pounds on five marble chimney-pieces for the principal rooms at the Hall; and he erected in the grounds to the east of the Hall the classic structure known as the Temple, some account of which, as well as of the handsome stone bridge near it which he built about the same time, will be found in the concluding section of this work. During his tenure he added to the estate by the purchase of parts of the manor and advowson of Blymhill, as well as of lands at Broekhurst in the same parish.<sup>1</sup>

He sat as M.P. for Wenlock from 1748 to 1754, for Ludlow from 1754 to 1768, and for Wenlock again from 1768 till 13 Aug. 1794,<sup>2</sup> when he was created BARON BRADFORD, of Bradford co. Salop, being then the senior and shortly afterwards the sole representative of the Newport Earls of Bradford; his place as member for Wenlock was taken by his younger son John, who had sat as his colleague

<sup>1</sup> Canon Bridgeman's Hist. of Blymhill, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. I, pp. 311, 331, 379; Vol. II, Part 2, p. 125.

<sup>2</sup> Return of Members of Parliament, 1878.



in the representation of that borough from 1784 to 1790. In 1769 the University of Cambridge conferred upon him the degree of LL.D.,<sup>1</sup> to which the University of Oxford added that of D.C.L. in 1793.<sup>2</sup>

In the year 1798, when throughout the length and breadth of England it was supposed that a French invasion was imminent, and people of all classes vied with each other in providing means for the provision of troops to repel the enemy, Lord Bradford's retainers at Weston set a conspicuous example of loyalty and patriotism; for in the list of contributions raised in Shropshire, with which Weston Hall, though in Staffordshire, seems to have been for this purpose included, we find the servants and labourers at that place recorded as having subscribed no less than £90 16s. 0d., a sum nearly twice as large as that received from any other household.<sup>3</sup>

As Henry Bridgeman Esq., Lord Bradford had married on 12 July 1755 Elizabeth, daughter and sole heir of the Rev. John Simpson of Stoke Hall co. Derby by his wife Martha, only daughter and heir of Thomas Stringer Esq. of Deptford co. Kent, and granddaughter and probably sole representative of the famous Admiral Benbow. By this lady, who was born 14 Nov. 1735,<sup>4</sup> Lord Bradford had five sons and three daughters.

Their eldest son, Henry Simpson, was born 12 April 1757. He lived to grow up, and was elected M.P. for Wigan in Aug. 1780 in the place of John Moreton Esq. deceased, but in less than a fortnight afterwards Parliament was dissolved; he was however re-elected to the ensuing Parliament, and sat for the borough of Wigan till his death two years later. Mr. Henry Simpson Bridgeman died unmarried 26 July 1782, during the life-time of his father, and was buried at Weston.<sup>5</sup>

Orlando, the second son, who was born 24 Jan. 1759, died in infancy.

The third son, who was also christened Orlando, became his father's successor.

<sup>1</sup> *Graduati Cantabrigienses, 1760-1856.*

<sup>2</sup> *Foster's Alumni Oxonienses, 1715-1886.*

<sup>3</sup> *Transactions of the Shropshire Arch. Soc., Vol. I, p. 270.*

<sup>4</sup> The date of her birth, as well as those of all her children, are taken from "An Account of the Family of Simpson of Babworth" by the late Canon Bridgeman, who quotes as his authority an old Family Bible at Babworth, formerly belonging to "Mrs. Elizabeth Simpson," and afterwards to "John Simpson the younger."

<sup>5</sup> Monument in Weston Church.



The fourth son, John, was born 13 May 1763. By the deaths of his elder brothers he became the second son, and as such succeeded to the Simpson estates at Babworth co. Notts. and elsewhere by the will of his uncle, Lindley Simpson Esq., who died in 1785; and accordingly in that year he assumed the name and arms of Simpson only. In 1797 he inherited the manor and estate of Bilton in Warwickshire under the will of his distant relative Miss Charlotte Addison<sup>1</sup>; and he eventually succeeded also to his mother's property at Stoke in Derbyshire. He sat as M.P. for Wenlock from 1784 to 1790, and again uninterruptedly from 1794 to 1820.<sup>2</sup> The Hon. John Simpson was twice married, his first wife, to whom he was married in June 1784, being Henrietta Frances, only daughter of Sir Thomas Worsley of Appuldrecombe in the Isle of Wight, Bart.; by her, who died 25 July 1791 and was buried at Babworth,<sup>3</sup> he had issue: 1. Henry, who was born 24 March 1785, and died at Kingston School 7 June 1794<sup>4</sup>; 2. Henrietta Elizabeth Charlotte, who died in infancy, and was buried at Babworth 30 July 1786<sup>5</sup>; and 3. Henrietta Anna Maria Charlotte Bridgeman, who was baptized 17 June 1788,<sup>6</sup> and inherited the estates of her uncle Sir Richard Worsley; she was married 11 Aug. 1806<sup>7</sup> to the Hon. Charles Pelham, afterwards Earl of Yarborough, by whom she had issue Charles Anderson Worsley, grandfather of the present Earl; she died 30 June 1813. Mr. Simpson was married secondly, on 27 Nov. 1793,<sup>8</sup> to Grace, daughter of Samuel Estwicke Esq.; by her, who died 1 Jan. 1839 and was buried at Babworth, he had a large family: 1. Henry Bridgeman, born 7 Nov. 1795,<sup>9</sup> who succeeded his father; 2. Charlotte, born 8 April 1797,<sup>10</sup> who died at Bilton unmarried 8 Aug. 1866, and was buried there; 3. John Bridgeman, born 5 Sept. 1798, some time an officer in the Royal Horse Guards (Blues), who died unmarried 6 Feb. 1860, and was buried at Lavington co. Wilts; 4. Orlando Bridgeman, born 13 Feb. 1800,<sup>11</sup> who died in infancy 28 Feb. 1801,<sup>12</sup> and was buried at Babworth<sup>13</sup>; 5. Louisa Elizabeth Bridgeman, born 27 July 1801,<sup>14</sup> who married her cousin

<sup>1</sup> See *ante*, p. 249.

<sup>2</sup> Return of Members of Parliament, 1878.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Burke's Peerage.

<sup>8</sup> MS. Pedigree of 1812.

<sup>10</sup> Babworth Par. Reg.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> Babworth Par. Reg.

<sup>3</sup> Babworth Par. Reg.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> MS. Pedigree of 1812.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*





the Hon. and Rev. Henry Edmund Bridgeman, by whom she had issue, and died his widow 23 March 1880; 6. George Bridgeman, born 25 Feb. 1803, who died young 21 April 1806,<sup>1</sup> and was buried at Babworth; 7. Charles Bridgeman, born 15 Nov. 1804, who also died an infant 28 April 1806,<sup>2</sup> and was buried with his brother at Babworth; 8. Caroline Bridgeman, born 8 April 1806,<sup>3</sup> who died unmarried 2 Nov. 1839, and was buried at Bilton; 9. Isabella Grace Bridgeman, born 18 June 1807,<sup>4</sup> who died at Bilton unmarried 6 Feb. 1898, and was buried there; 10. Georgiana Lucy Bridgeman, born 3 Oct. 1808,<sup>5</sup> who married 16 Feb. 1841 Lieut.-Gen. Sir William Eyre, K.C.B., who died in 1859, having had by her an only son Arthur Hardolph Eyre, lieut. 90th Light Infantry, who was killed before Coomassie in Ashantee 4 Feb. 1874; Lady Eyre died 6 April 1898, and was buried at Bilton; 11. Emily Bridgeman, born 6 Nov. 1809,<sup>6</sup> who died at Bilton unmarried 22 Jan. 1897, and was buried there; 12. Arthur Bridgeman, born 15 April, 1812,<sup>7</sup> who was a midshipman in the Royal Navy, and died of fever on board H.M.S. *Tweed* off Cape de Verde Islands 6 Nov. 1827; 13. William Bridgeman, born 9 Sept. 1813, a clerk in holy orders, and Rector of Babworth; he married 23 June 1837 Lady Frances Laura Wentworth Fitzwilliam, daughter of Charles William, 5th Earl Fitzwilliam, and by her (who died 25 March 1887) had issue four sons and three daughters, the sons being: (1) Orlando John George Bridgeman, born 27 Aug. 1838, late Major 1st West Yorkshire Yeomanry, who married 30 April 1873 Catherine Maria, daughter of John Cotes of Woodcote co. Salop, Esq., and by her has three daughters, Lilian Frances, born 2 May 1874, Evelyn Mary, born 11 April 1877, and Olga Florence, born 12 Aug. 1878; (2) William Bridgeman, born 15 Aug. 1843, who was till lately resident at Toronto in Canada; (3) George Arthur Bridgeman, born 14 Nov. 1846, Registrar of the District Probate Registry at Wakefield, who has assumed the name of Bridgeman in place of that of Simpson; he married 26 Nov. 1896 Lady Mary Eleanor Fortescue, daughter of Hugh, 3rd Earl Fortescue; (4) Francis Charles Bridgeman, of Copgrove near Leeds, born 7 Dec. 1848, who has also assumed the name of Bridgeman in place of Simpson; captain in the Royal Navy, and now flag-captain to Admiral

<sup>1</sup> MS. Pedigree of 1812.<sup>2</sup> Babworth Par. Reg.<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*



Sir Michael Culme-Seymour, Bart., G.C.B., Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth; he married 6 Nov. 1889 Emily Charlotte, daughter and co-heir of the late Thomas Shiffner Esq. of Westergate co. Sussex. The Rev. William Bridgeman Simpson's daughters were: (1) Mary Bridgeman, born 27 July 1851, who was married 22 Feb. 1876 to Walter Pleydell Bouverie Esq., son of the Right Hon. Edward Pleydell Bouverie, and died 18 Jan. 1880; (2) Caroline Mary Bridgeman, born 12 Oct. 1852, who died unmarried 16 Feb. 1896; (3) Beatrice Dorothy Mary Bridgeman, born 5 Nov. 1855, who was married 7 Dec. 1881 to Adolphus Montagu Duncombe Esq., third son of the Hon. and Very Rev. Augustus Duncombe, Dean of York. The Rev. William Bridgeman Simpson died 1 April 1895, and was buried at Babworth. His father, the Hon. John Simpson of Babworth, died 5 June 1850, and was buried at Babworth. He was succeeded in his estates by his eldest son, Henry Bridgeman Simpson Esq., who married 19 Aug. 1830 Frances Emily, daughter of Henry Baring Esq., and died without issue 28 March 1873; he was buried at Eaton co. Notts. By his will, dated 18 July 1870, Mr. Henry Bridgeman Simpson left the estates at Bilton co. Warwick (subject to the life interest of his unmarried sisters), Stainforth and Fishlake co. York, and Stoke co. Derby, to his nephew, Granville Henry Orlando Bridgeman Esq., fifth son of his sister the Hon. Mrs. Henry Bridgeman; and the estate at Babworth to his widow for life, with remainder to Lieut.-Col. Henry Denison, late of the Royal Engineers, son of Stephen Charles Denison Esq., barrister-at-law. Mrs. Bridgeman Simpson died 14 March 1886. The present representative of this branch of the Bridgeman family is Orlando John George Bridgeman Simpson Esq.<sup>1</sup>

George, Lord Bradford's fifth son, was born 11 Aug. 1765. He took holy orders, and became Rector of both Wigan and Weston. Further particulars respecting him are given later on among the Rectors of Weston.<sup>2</sup> Sir Henry Gunning, Bart., his successor in the rectory of Wigan, used to say that in Mr. George Bridgeman's time the two parish sextons were both dressed in the Rector's family livery, with footmen's hats, drab coats and waistcoats, black knee-breeches, and white stockings; and it was their regular custom on

<sup>1</sup> There is a portrait of the Hon. John Simpson by Hoppner at Babworth, a copy of which is at Weston, where there is also a portrait and a miniature of his first wife Henrietta Frances, the heiress of Appuldercombe.

<sup>2</sup> For an account of his tenure of the rectory of Wigan see the late Canon Bridgeman's *History of the Church and Manor of Wigan*, pp. 640-659.





Sundays to meet his carriage in the market-place, and to walk before him into church. At that time, before it was divided into separate ecclesiastical districts, the parish of Wigan was a very large one; and a horse was always kept saddled in the stables at the Hall (the Rector's house), that one of the curates might be able to ride off at a moment's notice to any part of the parish where his ministrations were required.<sup>1</sup> Mr. George Bridgeman was twice married: first, 28 July 1792<sup>2</sup> to Lady Lucy Isabella Boyle, daughter of Edmund, 7th Earl of Cork and Orrery; and secondly, 16 Aug. 1809<sup>3</sup> to Charlotte Louisa, daughter of William S. Poyntz Esq., M.P., of Midgham House co. Berks. By his second wife, who died at Hampton Court 26 Jan. 1840, he had no issue; but by his first wife, who was born 10 Aug. 1766, and dying 7 Sept. 1801 was buried at Weston,<sup>4</sup> he had three sons: 1. Edmund Henry, born 15 Sept. 1796, who died in infancy; 2. Edmund Henry, his only surviving son, born 5 Nov. 1797, who became a colonel in the army, and died 23 April 1841 at Beyrout (where he was also buried) when in command of Her Majesty's troops in Syria, having married 18 Jan. 1837 Harriet Elizabeth Frances, daughter of Henry Harvey Aston Esq., by whom he had no issue; she died 20 Aug. 1853; 3. George Greswold, born 2 June 1801, who died in infancy 15 Jan. 1804; and four daughters: 1. Elizabeth Isabella, born 17 April 1793, who was married to the Rev. Egerton Arden Bagot of Pipe Hayes co. Warwick, and died without issue 17 Nov. 1824; she was buried at Weston; 2. Ann Charlotte, born 3 June 1794, who became the wife of Charles Shirley Esq., and also died without issue, at Hove near Brighton, 9 Feb. 1858; 3. Lucy Elizabeth, born 14 Sept. 1799, who died an infant; 4. Lucy (twin with George Greswold), born 2 June 1801, who also died in infancy. The Hon. and Rev. George Bridgeman died 27 Oct. 1832, from the effects, it was supposed, of a cold caught at the opening of a new district church at Pemberton near Wigan,<sup>5</sup> and was buried at Weston.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Ex inf.* the late Rev. Sir Henry Gunning, Bart.

<sup>2</sup> MS. Pedigree of 1812.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Monument in Weston Church.

<sup>5</sup> *Ex inf.* the late Rev. Sir Henry Gunning, Bart.

<sup>6</sup> His niece, the late Miss Mary Boyle, in her privately printed "Biographical Catalogue of the Portraits at Weston" (pp. 112, 113), thus describes his character: "Mr. Bridgeman was a most amiable man and a most genial companion. He was beloved in his own family, and among a large circle of friends, by the servants of





Anne, the eldest daughter of Henry Lord Bradford, was born 29 Nov. 1757, and died the same day.<sup>1</sup>

Charlotte, the second daughter, was born 28 Jan. 1761. She was married 15 May 1784<sup>2</sup> to Henry Greswold Lewis of Malvern Hall co. Warwick, Esq., but died without leaving issue 6 July 1802,<sup>3</sup> and was buried at Yardley co. Worcester.

Elizabeth Diana, the third daughter, was born 5 June 1764. She was married 10 Feb. 1794<sup>4</sup> to George William Gunning Esq., only son of Sir Robert Gunning, Bart. and K.B., of Horton co. Northampton, by whom she became the mother of Sir Robert Henry Gunning and Sir Henry John Gunning, successively baronets, the latter of whom was the father of the present Sir George Gunning, Bart. The Hon. Mrs. Gunning died 5 May 1810.<sup>5</sup> There is a beautiful portrait of her, by Hoppner, at Weston.

his household, by children, horses, and dogs. Indeed, the influence he exercised over animals was wonderful. In his latter days he possessed a beautiful thoroughbred chestnut mare, hot-tempered and violent by nature, who let no opportunity slip of taking the bit between her teeth. The grooms, until they became 'up to her wicked ways,' fought shy of riding her, and the writer's sister, a splendid and fearless horsewoman, was very much mortified one day at finding she could not hold 'Uncle George's' mare. Yet the moment Mr. Bridgeman, then old and infirm, got into the saddle, the generous beast became as quiet as a lamb, and her master would often lay the reins on her beautiful neck, to show the perfect understanding that subsisted between them. Added to an earnest and by no means morose piety, the good pastor possessed a vein of genial humour, and a genuine love of fun, which was doubtless one of the qualities that endeared him to the younger part of the community, and an anecdote is told of him which is highly characteristic. One evening dining alone at a club in London, where he was little known, it was impossible to avoid overhearing the conversation at a neighbouring table, which, strangely enough, turned on his own son, an officer of the Guards. The diners spoke of the pecuniary difficulties into which he had lately been plunged, and while they confessed his extravagance, they sang his praises—at least he was not selfish, at least he spent his money on others, etc. etc.; no doubt about it, Bridgeman was a capital fellow, the best fellow in the world, and many were the jolly parties they had had at his expense. Now this was a sore subject at that moment to the Rector of Wigan, but his sense of the ludicrous triumphed over every other feeling, and, rising quietly, he advanced towards the astonished group at the other table. 'Gentlemen,' he said, 'I am very grateful for the handsome terms in which you have spoken of my son, but will you allow me to remark that it is I who am the best fellow in the world, since it is I who have paid for all those dinners and suppers, which I am delighted to think you have so much enjoyed.'" There is a portrait of the Hon. and Rev. George Bridgeman at Weston by Constable.

<sup>1</sup> Family Bible at Babworth.

<sup>2</sup> MS. Pedigree of 1812.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*



Henry Lord Bradford died 5 June 1800, and was buried at Weston. Elizabeth Lady Bradford survived him, and dying 6 March 1806 was also buried at Weston. It was during their lifetime that Mr. Richard Lovell Edgeworth and his family rented for a short period a house at Beighterton, in the parish of Weston, probably the one now a farm-house and in the occupation of Mr. Edward Rogers; and there it was that his second wife, Honora Edgeworth, died. In his own account of his life, which was completed after his death by his daughter, the celebrated authoress Maria Edgeworth, he alludes in the following grateful terms to his neighbours at the Hall: "Bighterton was near Weston, the seat of Sir Henry Bridgeman. Lady Bridgeman and her daughters were as kind to Honora as it was possible. Every thing, that their magnificent and hospitable mansion could afford, was at all times at our command. I cannot record this instance of benevolence, without observing that both of us, particularly my poor wife, felt interested by the amiable manners and cultivated understandings of this family. Nor was theirs a sudden burst of kindness, prompted by compassion and sympathy—it lasted—for it arose from generous hearts and sound judgment, that knew how to feel, and how to appreciate the pleasure of doing good."<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Edgeworth died on 1 May 1780,<sup>2</sup> and was buried beneath the tower of Weston Church, where a small marble tablet to her memory may be seen on the inner wall of the tower.

There are several pictures of the 1st Lord Bradford—"Sir Harry," to give him the name by which he was usually known—and also of his wife, at Weston. There is one of the former in his peer's robes, by Romney; and one of the latter by Pine. There are also smaller pastel portraits of them both, Sir Henry being represented in the well-known blue coat and red collar of the Shropshire Old Hunt and Lady Bridgeman in a scarlet riding habit. Besides these there is a large picture, by Pine, of Sir Henry and Lady Bridgeman, with their three

<sup>1</sup> Memoirs of Richard Lovell Edgeworth Esq., Vol. I, p. 367. Another instance of the kindness of Lady Bridgeman and her husband to a neighbour in a much humbler class of life is recorded in the following short extract from an old newspaper of the year 1776: "Wednesday died at Shiffnall, aged 128, Mary Yates. She lived many years entirely on the Bounty of Sir Harry and Lady Bridgeman; she walked to London just after the great Fire in 1666. She was hearty and strong 120 years, and married a third husband at 92." There is a picture of this Mary Yates, taken apparently shortly before her death, at Weston.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 372.



sons, Orlando, John and George, and their two daughters, Charlotte and Elizabeth, in a family group. There is another portrait of this Lord Bradford in the possession of his descendant Sir George Gunning, very similar to the first one mentioned among those at Weston, but in black instead of in the red robes of a peer; and yet another, of singularly youthful appearance, labelled "*Hen. Bridgeman Baroncttus 1763 Act. 37.*" in the gallery of the President's Lodge at Queen's College, Cambridge.<sup>1</sup>

ORLANDO, 2ND BARON BRADFORD, and 6th Baronet, succeeded to the family estates on his father's death in 1800. According to the old Family Bible at Babworth already referred to, he was "born the 19th of March, 1762, at 2 of y<sup>e</sup> clock of y<sup>e</sup> afternoon in y<sup>e</sup> same house [in Berkeley Square, London], and christened there y<sup>e</sup> 19th of April following by Dr. Moss, Rector of St Geo: Hanover Square. Sir Orlando Bridgeman, his grandfather, Sir Wm. Owen, baronet, and Mrs. Martin, Captain Martin's lady, were his sponsors." He was educated at Harrow, a school to which his representatives have since been faithful for four successive generations; and the name "O. Bridgeman 1780," probably cut by his own hand, may still be seen on the oak panelling near the head-master's desk in the old Fourth Form room. In 1784 he was returned to Parliament as Member for Wigan, for which borough he continued to sit till he was called to the House of Lords.<sup>2</sup> In 1793 the University of Oxford conferred upon him the degree of D.C.L.<sup>3</sup>

In 1802, on the death of his cousin the last Earl of Mountrath, he succeeded, not only to the manor and advowson of Walsall and lands there and at Bentley,<sup>4</sup> but also to an estate at Weeting on the borders of Norfolk and Suffolk.<sup>5</sup> He took a great interest in agriculture,<sup>6</sup> in relation to which new ideas were just then being

<sup>1</sup> *Ex inf.* Rev. H. E. Ryle, D.D., President of Queen's College, Cambridge.

<sup>2</sup> Return of Members of Parliament, 1878.

<sup>3</sup> Foster's Alumni Oxonienses, 1715-1886.

<sup>4</sup> See *ante*, p. 269, note 2.

<sup>5</sup> Lord Bradford sold the Weeting property in 1808 (*ex inf.* E. Horsman Bailey Esq.).

<sup>6</sup> Many years before this, a few weeks before his father Sir Henry Bridgeman came into actual possession of the Weston estate, the home farm there seems to have obtained considerable success in the breeding and feeding of stock; for in the St. James's Chronicle for 27 Feb. 1762 we find the following announcement: "On Wednesday last, a Hog was killed at Weston Hall in Staffordshire, the seat of the Earl of Bradford, that was 10 feet and 3 inches long, twelve hands high, and weighed 776 Pounds; his leaf weighed 75 Pounds and a half."





ventilated, and new methods of cultivation tried, under the leadership of such men as "Mr. Coke of Norfolk" and the celebrated Arthur Young. One of Lord Bradford's head-servants, writing to another in December 1803, says: "My Lord is sending us from Weeting a new plowman, also Three Horses, a Waggon & Two Ploughs;"<sup>1</sup> this would seem to be the first introduction into Weston of the famous breed of Suffolk horses which are still employed on the estate. And among the plate now in the possession of the family are a number of silver cups won by his exhibits at the various shows of the newly-formed Shropshire Agricultural Society. The following extract from Pitt's "Topographical History of Staffordshire," published in 1817, may be interesting as giving a contemporaneous account of Lord Bradford's system of farming at Weston: "The Earl of Bradford has made very great improvements upon his demesne, at Weston, both in an ornamental and in an agricultural point of view. He has drained the land, and introduced a spirited and successful system of agriculture upon his farm. The turnip husbandry is managed upon the one-bout Northumberland ridge, and his Lordship raises abundant crops of this most useful plant. The ploughing is wholly done with two horses a-breast, and is conducted by an able Norfolk ploughman. The arable land is managed according to the Norfolk system, for which sort of husbandry the soil of the farm is for the most part very well adapted. Lord Bradford's Devon cattle are in the highest repute, having been judiciously selected, at a great expense, and they have answered all the expectations that were formed of them. The sheep stock are South-downs, bred from the flocks of the Duke of Bedford, and Mr. Coke, and are remarkably neat and good. The Pigs are of the Suffolk kind, having a great aptitude to fatten, with very little offal. The whole farming concern is conducted in a masterly style, and the noble Earl, both by his example and influence, has largely contributed to the improvement of the Agriculture of the County."<sup>2</sup>

He was created VISCOUNT NEWPORT and EARL OF BRADFORD on 30 Nov. 1815. On 29 May 1788<sup>3</sup> he had been married to the Hon. Lucy Elizabeth Byng, daughter and co-heir (in blood) of

<sup>1</sup> MS. Letter *penes* Earl of Bradford. The "new plowman" here referred to was John Gez, who was afterwards accidentally killed in 1843 by a waggon passing over him; one of his sons and three of his grandsons are now working on the Weston estate.

<sup>2</sup> Pitt's Top. Hist. of Staffordshire, Part 2, p. 94.

<sup>3</sup> MS. Pedigree of 1812.



George 4th Viscount Torrington; by that lady, who was born 27 Oct. 1766, he left four sons and one daughter.

His eldest son, George Augustus Frederick Henry, succeeded him in his titles and estates.

The second son, Charles Orlando, was born 5 Feb. 1791.<sup>1</sup> He entered the Royal Navy in 1804 as a first-class volunteer, on board the *Repulse*, Captain the Hon. Arthur Legge, under whom the following year he became midshipman, and was present at Sir Robert Calder's action at the Passage of the Dardanelles, and also in the Expedition of the Scheldt; in 1809 he joined the *Manilla*, and in 1810 he was confirmed lieutenant in the *Semiramis*, both on the Lisbon station; he was subsequently appointed flag-lieutenant to his old commander, Rear-Admiral Legge, under whose orders he had first sailed; he was present at the defence of Cadiz, and joined successively the *Bellerophon*, on the Newfoundland station, and the yacht *Royal Sovereign*; for two years he then commanded the *Badger*, on the West Indies station, and assisted in the reduction of Guadaloupe; and later on he was appointed to the *Icarus*, in South America, and to the *Ruttenheimer*, which was attached to the squadron in the Mediterranean.<sup>2</sup> He retired from active service in 1846 with the rank of vice-admiral. The Hon. Charles Bridgeman, who like his father was a remarkably handsome man in his younger days, married 2 Jan. 1819 Eliza Caroline, daughter of Sir Henry Chamberlain, Bart., Consul-General in the Brazils; he died 13 April 1860, and was buried at Knockin. His wife, who was born 5 Sept. 1799, survived him many years, and dying 11 Dec. 1887 was also buried at Knockin. They had issue three sons and five daughters. The sons were: 1. Charles Orlando Henry, born 23 Aug. 1821, who was in the Hon. East India Company's Military Service, and died unmarried 11 May 1847 at Dinapore in Bengal, where he was also buried; 2. Edmund Wolryche Orlando, born 24 Jan. 1825, who went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, and took his B.A. degree in 1847; the next year he was ordained, and after having been for a short time curate at Wigan became in 1849 Vicar of Kinnerley co. Salop, and afterwards in 1876 Rector of Knockin; he married 29 Dec. 1853 Williama Frances, daughter of Richard

<sup>1</sup> Family Bible, formerly belonging to Lucy Elizabeth Countess of Bradford, now in the possession of the Rev. Ernest Bridgeman at Blymhill Rectory. This Bible is our authority for the dates of birth of all her children and grandchildren.

<sup>2</sup> Miss Boyle's Biogr. Cat. of Portraits at Weston, pp. 102, 103.





Richards of Caerynwch co. Merioneth, Esq., M.P., and by her, who was born 13 March 1831, and dying 2 Sept. 1861 was buried at Kinnerley, had four daughters: Ursula Judith, born 8 Jan. 1855; Maud, born 25 Feb. 1857; Gwladys, born 1 Oct., and died 11 Oct., 1858; and Dorothy, born 9 Aug. 1861; he died 25 Dec. 1897, and was buried at Knockin; 3. Orlando Frederick Cavendish, born 16 July 1831, a captain in the 2nd Dragoon Guards, who died unmarried at Alexandria 19 Dec. 1858, when on his way home after the suppression of the Indian Mutiny, and was buried there. Admiral Bridgeman's daughters were: 1. Ursula Lucy Grace, born 22 May 1823, who was married, first, 21 Dec. 1847 (as his second wife) to Lord Albert Conyngham (who in 1850 assumed the name and arms of Denison and was created Baron Londesborough), and, secondly, 14 Dec. 1861 to Lord Otho Augustus Fitzgerald, third son of Augustus Frederick 3rd Duke of Leinster; she died 13 Nov. 1883; 2. Emily Louisa Gertrude, born 16 Sept. 1826, who was married 5 July 1859 to Lieut.-Col. Francis Beekford Ward, R.A.; 3. Caroline Elizabeth Anne Agnes, born 23 March 1833, who was married 9 May 1854 to Sir Vincent Rowland Corbet, of Moreton Corbet co. Salop, Bart.; 4. Charlotte Sobieski Isabel, born 20 May 1835, who was married 19 May 1863 to Leopold Cust Esq., afterwards Sir Leopold Cust, Bart., eldest son of the Hon. Sir Edward Cust; 5. Katherine Selina, born 26 Oct. 1837, who was married 18 Aug. 1863 to Arthur Philip LLoyd, of Leaton Knolls co. Salop, Esq.

Orlando Henry, the third son of Orlando 1st Earl of Bradford and Lucy Elizabeth his wife, who was born 6 May 1794, entered the army, and became lieut. and capt. in the Grenadier Guards; he was wounded at the battle of Waterloo, and at first reported dead. He married 5 July 1817 Lady Selina Needham, daughter of Francis Jack, 1st Earl of Kilmorey, and by her, who was born 5 July 1794 and died 10 Jan. 1876, he had four children. He died at Hastings 28 Aug. 1827, and was buried at Teddington. Their children were: 1. Francis Orlando Henry, born 11 Sept. 1819, who was a captain in the 10th Hussars, and married 30 June 1846 the Countess Josephine Wilhelmina Francesca, daughter of Anthony Joseph Clement, Count von Törring-Minucci of Bavaria; he died at Munich 3 Oct. 1895, leaving a daughter Lucy Selina Frances, who was born 29 June 1847 and was married 21 Sept. 1868 to Albrecht, Count Seinsheim Grünbach (now Count von Seinsheim), then 1st lieut. in the 1st Bavarian Cuirassiers, and





now Chamberlain to H.R.H. the Prince Regent of Bavaria; 2. Orlando George, born 12 Oct. 1820, who died in infancy 12 March 1821; 3. Orlando Jack Charles, born 10 March 1823, formerly a lieutenant in the 11th Hussars, and now residing at Coton Hill, Shrewsbury; 4. Selina, born 12 Feb. 1825, who was married 2 April 1850 to Henry Fox Bristowe Esq., afterwards Sir Henry Fox Bristowe, Q.C., Vice-Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and died 15 May 1886.

Lord Bradford's youngest son, Henry Edmund, who was born 18 Oct. 1795, went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, and graduated as M.A. there in 1817<sup>1</sup>; he took holy orders, and, as appears from a letter from him to his mother, was holding in May 1821 the livings of Marston Bigott in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, Kingston Deverill in the diocese of Salisbury, Castle Bromwich in the diocese of Lichfield, and Teddington in the diocese of London; he was instituted to the rectory of Blynhill 13 Oct. 1823,<sup>2</sup> which benefice he resigned 5 Oct. 1836. He married 25 Aug. 1820 his cousin Louisa Elizabeth Bridgeman, daughter of the Hon. John Simpson, of Babworth co. Notts, and had by her a numerous family. After retiring from Blynhill the Hon. and Rev. Henry E. Bridgeman lived for many years in Switzerland; he died 15 Nov. 1872, and was buried at Barnes co. Surrey. His children were: 1. Henry Orlando, born 26 Jan. 1825, who married 23 Dec. 1856 Sophia Caroline, daughter of Lieut.-Col. Robert Close, of the Hon. East India Company's Service, and dying without issue 14 June 1879 was buried at Charlton in Kent; 2. Frederick Henry Orlando, born 10 Nov. 1826, who married 17 April 1854 Emma Olga, daughter of Henry Wernicke Esq., and died 2 Dec. 1878, having had issue one son, Alfred Orlando Henry, who was born 18 Jan. 1855; 3. Wolryche Arthur Charles Orlando, born 5 June 1828, who died unmarried at St. Leonards-on-Sea 14 Oct. 1866, and was buried there; 4. Greswold Dudley Orlando, born 2 July 1829; 5. Granville Henry Orlando, born 9 Aug. 1830, who, as already mentioned, inherited estates at Bilton co. Warwick, Stainforth and Fishlake co. York, and Stoke co. Derby, under the will of his uncle Henry Bridgeman Simpson Esq.; 6. Caroline Louisa Sophia Georgiana, born 22 Nov. 1832, who was married 29 Dec. 1859 to William Joseph Kingsbury Esq.; 7. Arthur William, born 1 Feb. 1834; 8. Louisa Isabella Octavia, born 6 April 1835; 9. Helen

<sup>1</sup> *Graduati Cantabrigienses, 1659-1823.*

<sup>2</sup> *Foster's Index Ecclesiasticus, 1800-1840.*



Gertrude, born 29 Oct. 1839; 10. Edward Charles Orlando, born 16 Nov. 1840.

Lord Bradford's only daughter, Lucy Elizabeth Georgiana, was born 22 Jan. 1792; she was married 29 Jan. 1810 to William Wolryche Whitmore, of Dudmaston co. Salop, Esq., and dying without issue 17 March 1840 was buried at Quatt co. Salop.

There is a bust of Orlando, 1st (Bridgeman) Earl of Bradford, at Weston, several small replicas of which were made and given to his children and friends; and one of his daughter Lady Lucy Whitmore. There are several portraits of him at Weston, one by Sir George Hayter, and another as a youth by Pine, besides two smaller ones; also a picture in crayons by Sir William Ross, and several miniatures, of Lucy Elizabeth his wife.<sup>1</sup>

In 1824, a year before his death, Lord Bradford added to the Weston estate by purchasing lands at Brineton and Brockhurst in the parish of Blymhill.<sup>2</sup> He died 7 Sept. 1825, and was buried at Weston. Lady Bradford, who survived him many years, died 20 Sept. 1844, and was also buried at Weston.

GEORGE AUGUSTUS FREDERICK HENRY, 2ND EARL OF BRADFORD, and 7th Baronet, was born at Kingston House, Knightsbridge, 23 Oct. 1789. His sponsors were H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, afterwards King George IV, his grandfather Sir Henry Bridgeman, and his grandmother Lucy Viscountess Torrington, only daughter of John 5th Earl of Cork and Orrery.<sup>3</sup> He went to Harrow in 1801,<sup>4</sup> boarding at the Rev. T. Bromley's house, Dr. Joseph Drury being then head master, and Byron and Peel among his school-fellows.<sup>5</sup> From Harrow he proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his degree as M.A. in 1810.<sup>6</sup> From August 1812 to August 1814 he was travelling on the continent with his cousin Lord John Russell and his friend the Hon. Robert Clive; and his *Letters from Portugal, Spain, Sicily, and Malta*, written to his parents during that period, were privately printed in 1875 by his

<sup>1</sup> There are also portraits of their second son, the Hon. Charles O. Bridgeman, in naval uniform, and of their third son, the Hon. Orlando H. Bridgeman, in the undress uniform of the Guards; one in crayons by Sharples of their youngest son, the Hon. and Rev. Henry E. Bridgeman; and three miniatures of Lady Lucy Whitmore their daughter.

<sup>2</sup> Canon Bridgeman's Hist. of Blymhill, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. I, p. 332.

<sup>3</sup> Lucy Countess of Bradford's Family Bible.

<sup>4</sup> Harrow School Register, p. 4.

<sup>5</sup> During the earlier part of his time at Harrow he was fog to his lifelong friend, William Lacon Childe Esq. of Kinlet.

<sup>6</sup> *Graduati Cantabrigienses, 1659-1824.*



son the late Earl of Bradford; these letters "showed him to have been a man of culture and refinement of taste, more especially in points of art and literature."<sup>1</sup> The death of his father in 1825 brought him into possession of his estates, in the improvement of which he took the greatest interest; he made several additions to his Weston property, buying from time to time various lands in the parish of Blynhill as they came into the market<sup>2</sup>; but by far the most considerable acquisition was his purchase from George C. S. Durant Esq., for the sum of £190,000, of Tong Castle and about three thousand acres of the adjoining land.

Lord Bradford was married on 5 March 1818 to Georgina Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Moncreiffe, of Moncreiffe co. Perth, Bart., and had by her three sons and five daughters.

His eldest son, Orlando George Charles, was his successor.

His second son, George Thomas Orlando, was born at Castle Bromwich 21 Aug. 1823. He was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, taking his M.A. degree in 1845. After spending about two years in foreign travel,<sup>3</sup> and studying for a year at the Theological College at Wells, he was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Rochester in 1849, and served as curate, first at Southfleet in Kent, and then at Bolton-le-Moors in Lancashire. He was ordained priest in 1850 by the Bishop of Hereford, and was at once instituted to the rectory of Willey, with the perpetual curacy of Barrow annexed, both in the county of Salop, which he held till 25 Nov. 1853, when he was instituted to the rectory of Blynhill. In 1863 he was appointed by the Bishop of Lichfield Rural Dean of Brewood. From Blynhill he removed to Wigan, to which rectory he was instituted by the Bishop of Chester 17 Oct. 1864; and the next year he was made Rural Dean of Wigan. In 1868 he was appointed Hon. Chaplain to H.M. the Queen, and he became Chaplain in Ordinary to Her Majesty in 1872. Earlier in the same year he had been made Hon. Canon of Chester, and in 1880 after the formation of the new diocese of Liverpool his stall was transferred to the cathedral church of that city. He married 25 June 1850 Emily Mary, daughter of the Hon.

<sup>1</sup> Miss Boyle's Biogr. Cat. of Portraits at Weston, p. 202.

<sup>2</sup> Canon Bridgeman's Hist. of Blynhill, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. I, p. 312; Vol. II, Part 2, pp. 80, 100, 127, 128.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. George Bridgeman brought home from the Holy Land some seeds of cedar of Lebanon, which he had picked up on Mount Lebanon itself; these were planted in Weston Park, and have now become flourishing trees, growing on the western face of the Knoll.





Richard (Bagot), Bishop of Bath and Wells, who was born 24 Sept. 1823, and dying 13 Dec. 1853 was buried at Blymhill. By her he had two sons and one daughter. The sons were: 1. Ernest Richard Orlando, born 9 May 1851, who was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his degree as B.A. in 1873, and as M.A. in 1876; he was ordained deacon in 1875, and priest in 1876; in 1875 he became curate at Tarporley in Cheshire, where he remained for nearly four years; from 1878 to 1883 he was Rector of Castle Bromwich, and since 1883 he has been Rector of Blymhill; on 16 June 1899 he was appointed by the Bishop of Lichfield Rural Dean of Penkridge; 2. Charles George Orlando, born 13 July 1852, who was also educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, graduating as B.A. in 1875, and as M.A. in 1878; in 1872 he became a student of Lincoln's Inn, and was called to the Bar in 1876; on 26 July 1888 he married Sidney, daughter and co-heir of Gen. Henry Lynedoch Gardiner, R.A., C.B., afterwards Sir H. Lynedoch Gardiner, K.C.V.O., C.B., and by her has issue, Roger Orlando, born 4 Oct. 1889, and Victoria Alexandrina Leopoldine (for whom Her Majesty was sponsor), born 19 July 1894. The Hon. and Rev. George T. O. Bridgeman's only daughter was Harriet Georgina Isabel, born 7 Dec. 1853, who was married 22 April 1879 to the Rev. Douglas Stuart Murray, then curate at All Saints', Wigan, and now Rector of Blithfield co. Stafford. Canon Bridgeman greatly improved the ecclesiastical buildings in all the three parishes of which he had the charge, having been instrumental in the restoration of the interesting old church at Barrow, in the building of a new school and new offices at the Rectory and the restoration of the parish church of Blymhill, and in the erection of two schools and a district church at Wigan, besides the rebuilding of the old Hall, or Rectory House, at the latter place. He was a J.P. for the counties of Stafford and Salop, senior chaplain of the Volunteer Battalions of the Manchester Regiment, and one of the principal founders of the Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Permanent Relief Society, an institution in which he took great interest, and of which he was president up to the day of his death. He died at Wigan 25 Nov. 1895, and was buried at Blymhill.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> An obituary notice of the Hon. and Rev. Canon Bridgeman, by Mrs. Baldwin Childe, appeared in Vol. VIII of the 2nd Series of the "Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society," giving a list of the various literary publications of which he was the author; this obituary notice has been reprinted in "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVI. Further details of his life and work at Wigan may be found in



A short account of the 2nd Earl of Bradford's youngest son, John Robert Orlando, who was born 18 Aug. 1831, will be found among the notices of the Rectors of Weston, of which parish he was incumbent for nearly forty years, and where he was greatly beloved. Like his brother he was a J.P. for the two counties of Stafford and Salop. By his marriage with Marianne Caroline, only daughter and heir of the Ven. William Clive, Archdeacon of Montgomery and nephew of the great Lord Clive, he had two children: 1. Georgina Emily Mary, who was born 10 May 1863, and dying 6 June 1869 was buried at Weston; and 2. William Clive, born 31 Dec. 1864, now of Leigh Manor co. Salop, who was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, graduating as B.A. in 1887, and as M.A. in 1892; he married 30 April 1895 Caroline Beatrix, elder daughter of the Hon. Cecil Thomas Parker, second son of Thomas Augustus Wolstenholme 6th Earl of Macclesfield, and by her has issue two sons, Robert Clive, born 1 April 1896, and Geoffrey John Orlando, born 3 July 1898; Mr. William Bridgeman, who unsuccessfully contested North Worcestershire in 1892 and Mid Derbyshire in 1895, was private secretary to Lord Knutsford, Secretary of State for the Colonies, from 1889 to 1892, and has been since 1895 private secretary to the Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Bart., Chancellor of the Exchequer; he has also been since 1897 a member of the London School Board. The Hon. and Rev. John Bridgeman died at his house in London, 89 Harley Street, 26 Nov. 1897, and was buried in the cemetery at Weston.

Of Lord Bradford's five daughters, the eldest, Elizabeth Lucy, who was born 10 June 1820, died an infant 3 Jan. 1822, and was buried at Weston.

The second, Georgina Elizabeth, who was born 22 March 1825, lived to the age of 18, but died unmarried at Brighton 4 July 1843, and was also buried at Weston.

The third, Lucy Caroline, was born 13 Oct. 1826, and the fourth, Charlotte Anne, 11 Nov. 1827. They both died unmarried from the effects of a melancholy accident; Lady Lucy's dress caught fire from a candle at Weston Hall, and Lady Charlotte in her efforts to save her was herself involved in the conflagration; both sisters were so severely burnt that, though they lingered for several days, they neither of

his own "Hist. of the Church and Manor of Wigan," pp. 673-683. There is a portrait of the late Canon, by Miss Cruikshank, in the possession of the Rev. Ernest Bridgeman at Blymhill Rectory.



them had strength to recover; Lady Charlotte died 26 Nov. 1858, and Lady Lucy the 3 Dec. following; they were both buried at Weston. The stained glass windows in the north aisle of Blynhill Church, which was under restoration at the time, were put up to their memory by their friends in the county and neighbourhood.

Lord Bradford's youngest daughter, Mary Selina Louisa, who was born 24 Nov. 1829, was married 20 Oct. 1852 to Robert Clive, Esq. (afterwards the Hon. Robert Windsor-Clive), M.P., eldest son of the Hon. Robert Henry Clive, M.P., and Lady Harriet Clive (afterwards Baroness Windsor), by whom she became the mother of the present Lord Windsor; she died 12 July 1889, and was buried at Bromfield co. Salop.<sup>1</sup>

Georgina Elizabeth, Countess of Bradford, who was born 20 Aug. 1790, died at Norwood in Surrey 12 Oct. 1842, and was buried at Weston. Lord Bradford married, secondly, on 30 Oct. 1849 Helen, widow of Sir David Moncreiffe, of Moncreiffe co. Perth, Bart., and daughter of Thomas Aeneas Mackay, of Scotston co. Peebles, Esq., by whom he had no issue; she died 22 April 1869 at Cannes in France, and was buried there.

George A. F. H., 2nd Earl of Bradford,<sup>2</sup> died at Weston 22 March 1865, and was buried in the family vault in Weston Church, after which the vault was finally closed.

ORLANDO GEORGE CHARLES, 3RD EARL OF BRADFORD, and 8th Baronet, was born in Nottingham Place, London, 24 April 1819, privately baptized there on 30 April, and publicly received at Castle Bromwich Chapel on 24 June following, his godparents being his grandfather Orlando Earl of Bradford, his uncle Capt. the Hon. Charles O. Bridgeman, R.N., and his maternal grandmother Lady Elizabeth Moncreiffe.<sup>3</sup> He was educated first at Hall Place, Beaconsfield, under the Rev. William Bradford,<sup>4</sup> and then at Harrow under Dr. Longley, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, his house master at the Grove being the famous classical scholar

<sup>1</sup> There is a full length portrait of Lady Mary Windsor-Clive in the possession of her son, Lord Windsor, at Oakly Park.

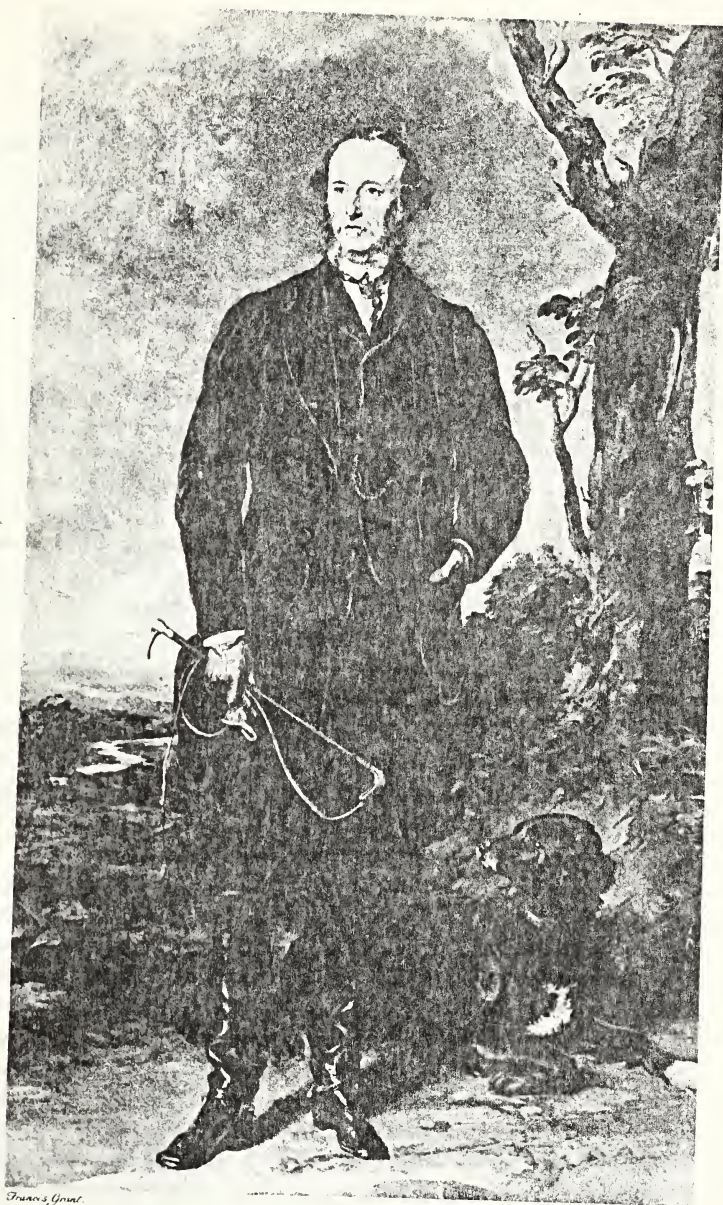
<sup>2</sup> Besides miniatures of this Lord Bradford and of his first wife, there are marble busts of both of them at Weston; and two portraits of the former, both by Sir George Hayter. There is another portrait of him, taken much later in life, in the possession of Col. the Hon. Francis Bridgeman.

<sup>3</sup> Lucy Countess of Bradford's Family Bible.

<sup>4</sup> There is a print of Mr. Bradford's house at Beaconsfield, engraved from a sketch taken on the spot by Lord Newport himself.







Orlando George Charles  
3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Bradford.



Dr. Kennedy, afterwards Regius Professor of Greek at the University of Cambridge; from Harrow Lord Newport went to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated as M.A. in 1840.<sup>1</sup> He was returned on 3 March 1842 as M.P. for South Shropshire,<sup>2</sup> for which constituency he continued to sit till he was called to the Upper House on his father's death in 1865. As Viscount Newport he was Vice-Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household during the Earl of Derby's first ministry in 1852 (in which year he was sworn of the Privy Council), and again from 1858 to 1859; in 1866, as Earl of Bradford, he became Lord Chamberlain, which office he held till 1868; during the Earl of Beaconsfield's premiership from 1874 to 1880 he was Master of the Horse, and he occupied the same post under the Marquis of Salisbury from 1885 to 1886. In 1875 he was appointed Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the county of Salop, a position which he resigned in 1893, his place being taken by the present Earl of Powis. He served for many years as captain in the Shropshire Yeomanry, and in 1878 was made hon. colonel of the Shropshire Volunteers.

On succeeding to the family estates in 1865 the 3rd Earl of Bradford made considerable alterations at Weston. He built a new wing, with a separate staircase, on the eastern side of the Hall, and a large orangery, connected with the house by a stone colonnade, on the west. Besides this he added a billiard-room in the centre of the house, and a stone porch on the eastern front, where what had been a flower garden now became the main approach to the house, and the old library on that side was turned into an entrance hall, the old entrance hall and billiard-room becoming the drawing-room, and the old dining-room the library; by throwing the old study and housekeeper's room etc. together he made a new dining-room, the ceiling of which he afterwards raised, and it is now a large and handsome room, well suited to display the pictures which adorn its walls.<sup>3</sup> At the same time Lord Bradford materially enlarged the garden, taking into the pleasure-grounds a portion of the park adjoining the Hall on the south, including the immense oriental plane-tree

<sup>1</sup> *Graduati Cantabrigienses, 1760-1856.*

<sup>2</sup> *Return of Members of Parliament, 1878.*

<sup>3</sup> A careful and accurate description of the interior of Weston Hall, as it appeared towards the close of the late Earl of Bradford's time, with illustrations, will be found in "The County Seats of Shropshire" by the Rev. D. H. S. Cranage.





which forms such a conspicuous object to any one looking on to the terrace from the house. One of the last acts of Lord Bradford's life was to open up the old red brick stables, built by Sir Thomas and Lady Wilbraham, to the main approach, from which they had previously been shut out by a thick screen of shrubs.

The late Lord Beaconsfield in his closing years was often at Weston, where in the company of his host and hostess, both of them his old friends, he could rest for a time from the cares of state and the worry and turmoil of political strife.

Like his predecessors Lord Bradford added to his estate at Weston, as opportunities occurred, by purchases in the parishes of Blymhill,<sup>1</sup> Church Eaton,<sup>2</sup> Sheriff Hales, and Shifnal, the latter, which was the most considerable of his additions to the property, including the wooded hill called the Lizard, from which the parish of Weston-under-Lizard originally derived its name.

Lord Bradford married on 30 April 1844 the Hon. Selina Louisa Forester, daughter of Cecil Weld, 1st Lord Forester, and by her, who was born 17 Feb. 1819, had issue four sons and two daughters. Of the sons:

The eldest, George Cecil Orlando, succeeded his father.

The second, Francis Charles, who was born 4 July 1846, and was educated at Harrow, joined the Scots Guards in 1865, retiring from the regiment as colonel in 1889, and leaving the army on retired pay in 1894; he was A.D.C. to Gen. H.S.H. Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar in 1875-6; in 1878 he was attached to a special Mission to Spain, where he received the order of Isabel la Catolica; he served in the Suakin Expedition in 1885; and was from 1892 to 1899 in command of the Staffordshire Volunteer Brigade. He is a J.P. for the counties of Stafford and Salop, and sat as M.P. for Bolton from 1885 to 1895. He married 26 July 1883 Gertrude Cecilia, daughter of George Hambury Esq., of Blythwood co. Buckingham, and has five children: 1. Reginald Francis Orlando, born 14 Oct. 1884; 2. Selina Adine, born 24 June 1886; 3. Francis Paul Orlando, born 25 July 1888; 4. Humphrey Herbert Orlando, born 22 July 1891; and 5. Orlando Clive, born 29 Nov. 1898.

<sup>1</sup> Canon Bridgeman's Hist. of Blymhill, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. I, p. 312; Vol. II, Part 2, p. 129.

<sup>2</sup> Canon Bridgeman's Hist. of Church Eaton, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 2, p. 51.





Lord Bradford's third son, Gerald Orlando Manners, who was born 5 Nov. 1847, and was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, also joined the army, becoming an ensign in the Rifle Brigade in 1867; he died unmarried 14 April 1870 of a fever caught when travelling in Italy, and was buried at Weston. His brother Francis and he, when boys at Harrow, added some notes on the birds of that neighbourhood to a work on the flora of Harrow by their schoolfellow Mr. J. C. Melville, published in 1864.

The youngest son, Rowland Alexander Somerset, who was born 12 Feb. 1852, died 2 July 1864, and was buried at Melton Mowbray co. Leicester.

Of Lord Bradford's daughters, the elder, Mabel Selina, was born 13 Nov. 1855; she was married 22 Feb. 1887 to Col. William Slaney Kenyon-Slaney, of Hatton Grange near Shifnal co. Salop, now M.P. for North Shropshire.<sup>1</sup>

The younger daughter, Florence Katherine, was born 12 Feb. 1859, and was married 5 Nov. 1881 to Henry Ulick, Viscount Lascelles, now 5th Earl of Harewood.

The late Lord Bradford was a thorough sportsman in the best sense of the word. Enthusiastically devoted to hunting, before his accession to the title he lived during the winter months at Newport Lodge, Melton Mowbray, where he kept a journal of his runs with the Belvoir, Quorn and Cottesmore hounds; this *Hunting Journal* was privately printed in 1880. In later life he interested himself in racing, taking delight in breeding his own horses, which were trained for him by Mr. Thomas Wadlow at Stanton near Shifnal and might frequently be seen exercising on the gallop in Weston Park; after meeting with a considerable amount of ill luck, he was rewarded by winning the Derby in 1892 with "Sir Hugo."

Perhaps the most eventful year in the 3rd Earl of Bradford's life was 1894, when he and Lady Bradford had the happiness of celebrating their golden wedding, simultaneously with the silver wedding of their son and daughter-in-law, Viscount and Viscountess Newport, and the coming of age of their eldest grandson, the Hon. Orlando Bridgeman. The coincidence in one year of three such important landmarks in the history of a family is probably almost unique. The Countess of Bradford did not long survive her golden wedding, and dying on 25 Nov. 1894 was

<sup>1</sup> There is a picture, by Lutyens, at Weston, of Lady Mabel Bridgeman on her bay mare "Claribel."



buried beneath the cemetery chapel at Weston. The Earl of Bradford died 9 March 1898, and was buried by her side.<sup>1</sup>

GEORGE CECIL ORLANDO, 4TH EARL OF BRADFORD, and 9th Baronet, was born at 43 Belgrave Square, London, 3 Feb., and baptized at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, 29 March, 1845, his sponsors being his grandfather George A. F. H. Earl of Bradford, his uncle John George Weld Lord Forester, and his aunt Anne Elizabeth Countess of Chesterfield. After being educated at Harrow, where Mr. Edmund Vaughan was his tutor, he joined the 1st Life Guards, which he left as a lieutenant in 1867, and was afterwards for some years senior captain in the Shropshire Yeomanry Cavalry. He sat as Conservative M.P. for North Shropshire from 1867 to 1885, and is a J.P. and D.L. of the county of Salop, and a J.P. for the counties of Stafford and Warwick. In 1878 he was attached to the Duke of Abercorn's special mission to the King of Italy. He married 7 Sept. 1869 Lady Ida Frances Annabella Lumley, second daughter of Richard George, 9th Earl of Scarborough, and has issue three sons and four daughters. The sons are :

1. Orlando, Viscount Newport, born 6 Oct. 1873, who was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated as B.A. in 1896; he is a captain in the 3rd Battalion, Royal Scots (Edinburgh Light Infantry Militia); he was accredited as an honorary attaché to H.M. embassy at Vienna under Sir Horace Rumbold, Bart., 1897-8, since which time he has been private secretary to the Marquis of Salisbury.

2. Richard Orlando Beaconsfield, born 28 Feb. 1879, a godson of the late Earl of Beaconsfield, who became a midshipman in the Royal Navy in 1894, attaining the rank of sub-lieutenant in 1898.

3. Henry George Orlando, born 15 Aug. 1882, now at school at Harrow.

The daughters of the present Earl and Countess of Bradford are :

1. Beatrice Adine, born 2 Dec. 1870, and married 28 June 1894 to Ernest George Pretymann Esq., of Orwell Park co. Suffolk,

<sup>1</sup> There are several portraits of Orlando G. C., 3rd Earl of Bradford, at Weston, including one, as a child, by Sir George Hayter, one, on his favourite hunter "Rowton," by Sir Francis Grant and Ferneley, and one, full length, with his black retriever "Jet" at his feet, by Sir Francis Grant; the last is reproduced in this work. Of Selina, Countess of Bradford, who was one of the five "beautiful Miss Foresters," there are also several pictures at Weston, one being by Sir John Leslie, one by Clifford, and three by Sir Francis Grant.



now M.P. for the Woodbridge Division of Suffolk, and formerly captain in the Royal Artillery.

2. Margaret Alice, born 20 Jan. 1872, who was married 30 Jan. 1893 to John Charles, Earl of Dalkeith, eldest son of William Henry Walter 6th Duke of Buccleuch and 8th Duke of Queensberry; Lord Dalkeith was formerly a lieutenant R.N., and has sat as M.P. for Roxburghshire since 1895.

3. Helena Mary, born 16 July 1875, for whom H.R.H. Princess Christian was sponsor; she was married 8 Jan. 1898 to the Hon. Osbert Cecil Molyneux, lieutenant in the 2nd Life Guards, second son of William Philip, 4th Earl of Sefton.

4. Florence Sibell, born 24 March 1877.

Lord Bradford succeeded to the Weston estate at his father's death in 1898, and is now (1899) making further improvements to the Hall, the chief of which are the connection of the wing built by the late Earl with the older portion of the house by a passage on the first floor, the erection of new front and back staircases, the addition of a smoking-room at the back of the billiard-room, and the opening out of the front staircase to the entrance hall.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> There is at Weston a portrait of the present Earl of Bradford, painted by Miller in 1880; and one of the Countess of Bradford, painted by H. Baldry in 1888.





## VI. THE RECTORS OF WESTON.

ALEXANDER . . . . (c. 1199). The first of the Rectors of Weston of whom we have any record is *Alexander, Chaplain of Weston*, who was one of the witnesses, together with Herbert [de Blakenhale], Chaplain of Blumehull [Blymhill], Hamo de Weston, John Bagot, Alexander Mustrell, Henry de Gaywode, John Francies, William de Kavēswalla and others, to a deed without date of Hamo de Weston.<sup>1</sup> Sir Hamo was lord of Weston from 1175 to 1212; he occurs as a knight in 1 John (1199), and was dead in October 1214. The date of the deed above referred to is therefore presumably between the years 1175 and 1199, and certainly not later than 1214. There was an Alexander de Weston who challenged Alexander de Brunton for an act of robbery in 1194 and offered to prove his case "*per corpus suum et de visu suo*"<sup>2</sup>: it is just possible that this may have been the Chaplain of Weston.

WILLIAM . . . . (1254). At the inquisition held on 5 Oct. 1254 before the Justices Itinerant for the county of Stafford the jurors stated, amongst other things, that *William, Rector of the church of Weston under Brewod*, had impleaded Sir Hugh, lord of the same vill, for common in his wood which touched his free tenement *in capto de Lappoley*.<sup>3</sup> Probably it was the same person who as *W. parson of Weston* witnessed a deed (without date) of Robert de Berterton son of Hamo de Weston<sup>4</sup>; he may also be the same person as *William de Weston, clerk*, whose name appears as deforciant in a fine levied at Stafford on 22 Sept. 1272 of lands in Wavertone [Warton], in which fine Henry son of John de Weston was plaintiff.<sup>5</sup> In the earlier part of the same

<sup>1</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 39 (from orig. at Weston); cf. Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 8b; and Huntbach MSS. Vol. II (*penes* Lord Wrottesley).

<sup>2</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. III, p. 26.

<sup>3</sup> Rot. Hund. (Record ed.), Vol. II, p. 115.

<sup>4</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 40; Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 9 (*ante*, p. 19).

<sup>5</sup> Cal. Ped. Fin., No. 234 (now numbered 74); "Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 1, p. 258. In the extracts from this fine given in Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 26b, and Add. MS. 18667, fo. 52b, he is called *Willelmus de Weston clericum "fratrem ejus"* (or "*fratrem suum*"), but these last words do not occur in the original.



year in the essoins "*de malo veniendi*" taken at Lichfield on the morrow of Trinity 56 Hen. III (1272) we find "*Walter, parson of Weston*, who is in the land of Jerusalem, *versus* Thomas Meverel in a plea of land by Richard Denyas,"<sup>1</sup> but this was probably another Weston, viz. Weston super Trent, also in the county of Stafford, in which vill Thomas Meverell of Gayton was bailiff to Thomas de Ferrars in the reign of Edward I.<sup>2</sup> *Walter de Elmedon, Rector of the church of Weston*, was acting for the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield in legal proceedings on gaol delivery in 1293.<sup>3</sup> Again, amongst the witnesses at the inquisition to prove the age of Edmund, son and heir of Nicholas Baron of Stafford deceased, which was held at Stafford on the Thursday next after the Feast of St. Lawrence 22 Ed. I (12 Aug. 1294), were Sir Hugh de Weston, knight, and *Walter*<sup>4</sup> *de Elmedon, Chaplain and Rector of the church of Weston*. The latter in his evidence refers to the marriage of Sir Richard de Stretton, knight, with Rois, the sister of Nicholas Baron of Stafford, and the birth of their daughter Joan (who was now 22 years of age) on the Feast of St. Edith the Virgin next before the birth of the said Edmund, and by this and another circumstance he fixes the birth of Edmund as having taken place on the Feast of St. Edith the Virgin 25 July 1273. The other witnesses were Nicholas, Prior of St. Thomas's near Stafford, Sir Roger de Pyweleston, knight, Sir Henry de Cressewall, knight, Sir William Trumwyne, knight, Sir Robert de Pype, knight, Sir William de Stafford, knight, William de Wrottesley, Robert le Marshall, Hugh de Chauldon and Robert Gerveyse.<sup>5</sup> From his association as a witness with Sir Hugh de Weston and from the nature of his evidence it might have been supposed that Walter de Elmedon was then Rector of Weston under Lizard, which is in the neighbourhood of Stretton, but we know that there was a Walter de Elmedon Rector of Weston on Trent a few years later in 1302.<sup>6</sup> There is a difficulty however in identifying the *Walter parson of Weston* who was in Jerusalem in 1272 with *Walter de Elmedon*

<sup>1</sup> Staff. Ass. Roll, 56 Hen. III ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. IV, Part 1, p. 207).

<sup>2</sup> De Banco Roll, 22 & 23 Ed. I, m. 27 verso (Staff. Coll., Vol. VII, Part 1, pp. 23, 24).

<sup>3</sup> Staff. Ass. Roll, 21 Ed. I ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. VI, Part 1, p. 279; cf. *Ibid.* pp. 273, 283).

<sup>4</sup> *Sic* in original inquisition (Inq. 22 Ed. I, No. 152). In "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VIII, Part 2, p. 145, the name is erroneously given as *William* de Elmedon.

<sup>5</sup> Inq. 22 Ed. I, No. 152.

<sup>6</sup> Chartulary of St. Thomas, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VIII, Part 1, p. 197.



*Rector of Weston* in 1293 and 1294 and *Walter de Elmedon Rector of Weston on Trent* in 1302 owing to the fact that a vacancy appears to have occurred there in 1285. On 17 May of that year *Richard Bagot* had letters of presentation to the church of Weston, vacant and belonging to the King, and the letters are directed to the Lord Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield.<sup>1</sup> A few weeks later, viz. on 4 June 1285, there is a revocation of the presentation of *William* son of *William Bagod*, clerk, to the church of Weston in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, as it had been proved to the King that the advowson of the said church had been assigned in dower to *Eleanor* late the wife of *Robert de Ferrers*.<sup>2</sup> These entries on the patent roll could hardly refer to Weston under Lizard, for *Sir Hugh de Weston*, the true patron, was then *sui juris*, and had only a few days previously received from the King a charter of free warren in all his demesne lands at Weston.<sup>3</sup> Besides, the assignment of the advowson in dower to *Eleanor* the widow of *Robert de Ferrers* identifies the *Weston* mentioned in the patent roll with *Weston on Trent*.<sup>4</sup> But *Walter*, parson of *Weston* in 1272, may well have been *Walter de Elmedon's* predecessor at *Weston on Trent*.

**JOHN DE STRETTON (1295-1309).** From the Plea Rolls of 23 Ed. I (1295) we find that *John, the parson of the church of Weston under Brewode*, sued *William*, son of *William Bagod*, and *Robert*, his brother, for deforcing him of 4 acres of wood and 40 acres of pasture in *Wylbrighton*, which *Bertram de Burgh* had demised to him for a term, and within which term the said *Bertram* had sold the wood and pasture to the said *William* and *Robert*, upon which they had ejected him. The defendants did not appear. *William* was to be attached for a month from Michaelmas, and it was returned that *Robert* was a cleric and had no lay fee. It was afterwards testified that he had a benefice within the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, and a mandate was sent to the Bishop to produce him at the same date.<sup>5</sup> Again in 33 Ed. I (1305) we read that *Thomas*, son of *Hugh de Weston*, and *John de Bradele* withdrew their plea of debt against *John de Stretton, the parson of*

<sup>1</sup> Pat. Roll, 13 Ed. I. m. 21 (Cal. Pat. Roll, 1281-1292, p. 164).

<sup>2</sup> Pat. Roll, 13 Ed. I. m. 18 (Cal. Pat. Roll, 1281-1292, p. 170).

<sup>3</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 9b; Add. MS. 18667, fo. 58 (from orig. at Weston).

<sup>4</sup> Chartulary of St. Thomas, "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VIII, Part 1, pp. 195-197.

<sup>5</sup> De Banco Roll, Easter 23 Ed. I, m. 135 verso ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. VII, Part 1, p. 25).





*the church of Weston near Brewode.*<sup>1</sup> John de Stretton was doubtless a relative, perhaps brother, of Sarra, the wife of the last Sir Hugh de Weston, who seems to have been the daughter of Richard de Stretton. He resigned the rectory of Weston in 1309.<sup>2</sup>

THOMAS DE WESTON (1309–1328). *Thomas de Weston, acolyte*, was admitted 13 November 1309 on the presentation of Sir John de Weston subts Brewod to the rectory of Weston subts Brewod, which was vacant by the *resignation* of *John de Stretton*, the last Rector.<sup>3</sup> He had leave of absence for a year from the 23 Jan. 1310–11.<sup>4</sup> In 1321 Robert le Rotour of Stafford sued *Thomas, parson of the church of Weston near Loseyeril*, and Cecilia, formerly wife of Thomas Nowel of Cesteford [Seighford], the executors of the will of Phillip Nowel of Cesteford, for three sacks and four stone of wool of the value of £30. Thomas did not appear, and a mandate had been sent to the Bishop to produce him, and the Bishop returned [that] he had been cited and *arcatas* by the sequestration of his goods. The Sheriff was therefore ordered to attach the Bishop in order that he might produce Thomas, his clerk, at three weeks from Easter.<sup>5</sup> Thomas de Weston appears to have died in 1328.<sup>6</sup>

STEPHEN DE BROMLEY (1328–1349). *Stephen de Bromlegh* was admitted to the rectory of Weston on 18 Kal. Maii (14 April) 1328 on the *death* of *Sir Thomas de Weston*, on the presentation of Sir John de Weston, knight,<sup>7</sup> and resigned that living on his acceptance of the rectory of Blynhill, to which he was admitted on 5 Aug. 1349 on the presentation of Thomas de Weston, lord of Weston.<sup>8</sup> He was the brother of Isabella, the first wife of Sir John de Weston, who mentions him in her will dated 1317, and uncle of their son Thomas de Weston, who was patron of both livings. He witnessed various deeds of Sir John de Weston in the years 1328, 1330, 1331 and 1339, in all of which he is called *Magister* Stephen de Bromley.<sup>9</sup> After his appointment to the rectory of Blynhill his name frequently occurs in connection with

<sup>1</sup> De Banco Roll, Trin. 33 Ed. I, m. 193, *dorso* ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. VII, Part 1, p. 140).

<sup>2</sup> Lichfield Dioc. Reg., Vol. I, fo. 43.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. I, fo. 44.

<sup>5</sup> De Banco Roll, Mich. 14 Ed. II, m. 279 *dorso* ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. IX, Part 1, p. 82).

<sup>6</sup> Lichfield Dioc. Reg., Vol. II, fo. 143.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. II, fo. 183.

<sup>9</sup> See *ante*, pp. 27, 38, 39.



the settlements of shares of the manor of Weston, in which he figures not only as a trustee but also as a remainderman,<sup>1</sup> and in fact the remainder to him in both instances actually took effect in favour of Sir Adam de Peshale, who had purchased his interest. Stephen de Bromley was evidently a man of wealth and position, and seems to have had property in Blymhill before he became Rector of that parish, for in the Subsidy Roll of 6 Ed. III (1332-3) he was taxed in Blymhill at 3s. 6d., being as highly as the resident lords of the manor, John de Ipstones and Richard de Pichford. The manor of Blymhill having been divided among the various representatives of John Bagot early in the 13th century, there was no family that held a paramount interest in the parish till long after this period; and it is not unlikely therefore that the re-building of Blymhill Church may have been effected mainly by the efforts, and at the expense, of Stephen de Bromley himself during the time of his incumbency; and this suggestion is rendered all the more probable by the fact that in the year 1373 he received from Adam de Peshale 200 marks of silver, a large sum of money in those days, in exchange for the reversion of two-fifths of the manors of Weston and Newton, etc., to which he was entitled under settlements made some years before, and which fell into his possession not long after, a property which his vow of celibacy as a priest would have precluded his passing on to the heirs of his body. The apparent date of the older portions of the present church is consistent with this view; and outside the south wall of the chancel, in a position not infrequently occupied by the founder's tomb, there is an arched recess containing what would seem to be a stone coffin, the design on the lid of which, with the exception of what is evidently the head and foot of an ornamental cross, has been almost entirely obliterated by the storms of more than five hundred years. May not this arched recess be the last resting-place of this fourteenth century Rector, erected by his friends after his death as the finishing stroke to the great work for which the parishioners of Blymhill still have reason to be grateful to his memory? Stephen de Bromley was still living in 1375,<sup>2</sup> and apparently until 1379, when a dispute arose as to the right of presentation to the church of Blymhill, which had recently become vacant.<sup>3</sup>

ROGER DE WESTON (1349-1350). Roger de Weston was admitted 25 Aug. 1349 on the presentation of Thomas de Weston,

<sup>1</sup> *Ante*, pp. 67, 68.

<sup>2</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, p. 125.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 154, 163.



the rectory being vacant by the resignation of Sir Stephen ("dñ Ssteph") [*i.e.*, Stephen de Bromley].<sup>1</sup> He may have been a younger son of the last Sir Hugh de Weston, but this is purely conjectural. He must have died within six months of his admission,<sup>2</sup> and was doubtless one of the victims of the terrible pestilence known as the Black Death, which proved fatal to so many of his family.

JOHN DE COKESLONE (1350-1378). *John de Cokeslon, Chaplain*, was admitted to the rectory of Weston under Lusezord 4 March 1349-50 on the presentation of Thomas Foljaumb, patron for that turn, the rectory being vacant by the *death of the former Rector* [*i.e.* Roger de Weston], an oath being taken by the presentee that he would resign the living in the event of the Earl of Arundel [*i.e.* the mesne lord] establishing a right to the patronage.<sup>3</sup> This was the first appointment made after the manor had devolved upon the coheirs of Robert de Weston, and the appointment seems not to have passed unchallenged, although the challenger was not the mesne lord. One of the coheirs, William Trumwyn, being an infant and holding other lands of the King *in capite*, the right of presentation was claimed by the Crown, and accordingly on 28 November 1351 Richard de Tissynton, clerk, had the King's letters of presentation to the church of Weston under Loseyerd, in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, and in the King's gift by reason of the minority of William Trumwyn, who was in the King's custody.<sup>4</sup> Notwithstanding this claim on the part of the Crown, John de Cokeslone's title as presentee of the eldest coheir seems to have prevailed, for he was still described as parson of Weston in July 1373,<sup>5</sup> and apparently did not resign till about the year 1378.<sup>6</sup>

WILLIAM DE BLUMENHULL (1378-1381). On the resignation of John de Cokeslone the King renewed the claim of the Crown to the right of presentation as representing the Trumwyn heir, and on this occasion his efforts apparently attained a greater measure of success; for on 24 Dec. 1379 *William de Blumenhull*, "*primam tonsuram clericalem habens*," was admitted to the church of Weston on presentation of the King as custodian of the land and heir of William Trumwyn deceased for this turn, the church being vacant

<sup>1</sup> Lichfield Dioc. Reg., Vol. II, fo. 183.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. II, fo. 187.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Pat. Roll, 25 Ed. III, Part 3, m. 7.

<sup>5</sup> Harl. MS. 5816, fo. 12b (*ante*, p. 57).

<sup>6</sup> Lichfield Dioc. Reg., Vol. IV, fo. 72.





by the *resignation* of *Sir John Cokeslone*.<sup>1</sup> It is difficult to see what plausible ground there could have been for this claim on the part of the Crown, for, even if it had been the Trumwyn turn to present, the heir of William Trumwyn was then, and had for some three years been, not one of his infant children, who were all then dead, but his sister Isabel Reynald; and in fact the Sheriff had been ordered to deliver up possession to her on 24 October 1375.<sup>2</sup> As might have been expected, the appointment of William de Blunenhull did not long remain unchallenged, and we may regard him as *de facto* rather than *de jure* Rector of Weston. On 8 February 1379-80 *William de Blunhill*, *parson of the church of Weston*, in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, had letters of presentation from the King to the church of Blunenhull [Blynhill], in the same diocese, in the King's gift by reason of the advowsons of the churches of William Trumwyn tenant in chief deceased being in his hands, it being stated that he and John de Stretton, parson of the church of Blumenhull, were desirous of effecting an exchange.<sup>3</sup> John de Stretton had only just been collated by the Bishop to the rectory of Blynhill owing to a dispute between Humfrey de Swynnerton and the other patrons,<sup>4</sup> and this attempt on the part of the King to establish his nominee at Blynhill instead of Weston seems to have been equally unsuccessful in the end, for John de Stretton was still Rector of Blynhill 15 August 1387.<sup>5</sup>

ROGER DE ASTON (1381-1440). On 13 July 1381 *Roger de Aston* was admitted to the church of Weston on the presentation of Sir Adam de Pesale, knight, the church being vacant by the *resignation* of *Sir John de Cokeslone, last Rector*.<sup>6</sup> From the terms of the reference to the last Rector in the record of this admission we may perhaps conclude that the validity of William de Blunenhull's appointment had been successfully contested by Sir Adam de Peshale, who had now become entitled to four out of the five shares of the manor and advowson, and it is clear that his appointee Roger de Aston remained in possession of the rectory, for we find him described as parson of Weston in various deeds dated respectively June 1386, February 1405-6, November 1411 and August 1415.<sup>7</sup> He was one of Sir Adam de Peshale's

<sup>1</sup> Lichfield Dioc. Reg., Vol. IV., fo. 72.

<sup>2</sup> Pat. Roll, 3 Ric. II, m. 32.

<sup>3</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XIII, pp. 154, 163.

<sup>4</sup> Lichfield Dioc. Reg., Vol. VI, fo. 123.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. IV, fo. 74.

<sup>6</sup> Orig. Roll, 49 Ed. III, m. 9.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 79, 80, 91.



executors, in which capacity he both sues and is sued in 1424 and 1425, being described on the record as parson of the church of Weston under Luseard<sup>1</sup>: he was also one of the feoffees in trust of his lands.<sup>2</sup> In 1435 Roger Aston, clerk, sued in person John Northale of Weston under Luseyerd, yoman, for breaking into his close at Weston under Luseyerd and cutting down his trees to the value of 10 marks.<sup>3</sup> Apparently he continued to be Rector until his death about the year 1440,<sup>4</sup> his tenure covering a period of nearly 60 years.

JOHN FRENSE (1440-1455). On 27 April 1440 *Sir John Frenshe* was admitted to Weston church, vacant by the *death* of *Sir Roger Aston*, on the presentation of William Mytton Esq.<sup>5</sup> He remained there till his death in 1455.<sup>6</sup>

RICHARD LEE (1455- ). *Sir Richard Lee* was admitted on 27 July 1455 to the parish church of Weston subtus Luseard, vacant by the death of John Frensh, on the presentation of William Mytton Esq.<sup>7</sup> How long he remained Rector we do not know, for the next recorded admission is not until the year 1506, and we hear of more than one other Rector in the meantime.

RICHARD HYGONS (1485). The date of his admission is not recorded, nor do we know how long he was Rector, but amongst the Weston deeds, of which a transcript has been preserved at the British Museum, is a settlement by John Jobber of Blemhull of lands &c. there upon his wife Agnes for her life, with successive remainders to his sons John, Roger and Thomas in tail. This deed is dated 6 March 2 Ric. III (1485), and amongst the witnesses are Richard Mitton of Weston, gentleman, and *Richard Hygons, Rector of Weston aforesaid*.<sup>8</sup>

THOMAS GOODALL (1499-1506). *Sir Thomas Goodale, Parson of Weston*, was one of the witnesses to the will of John Mytton Esq. of Weston, dated 21 December 1499,<sup>9</sup> and he continued Rector until his death in the year 1506.<sup>10</sup>

ROGER JENNENS (1506-1550). Roger Jennens was admitted 17 September 1506 on the presentation of John Mytton, Esq.; the church being vacant by the *death* of *Sir Thomas Goodall*.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVII, pp. 96, 106.

<sup>2</sup> *Ante*, p. 91.

<sup>3</sup> De Banco Roll, Trin. 13 Hen. VI, m. 373, *dorso* ("Staff. Coll.," Vol. XVII, p. 153).

<sup>4</sup> Lichfield Dioc. Reg., Vol. IX, fo. 68.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XI, fo. 12.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Add. MS. 18667, fo. 92b (from orig. at Weston).

<sup>9</sup> *Ante*, p. 124.

<sup>10</sup> Lichfield Dioc. Reg., Vol. XIII, fo. 19.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*



Roger Jenyns is the name of the Rector of Weston at the time of the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* in the reign of Henry VIII (c. 1535).<sup>1</sup> His tenure of the rectory lasted well over 40 years until his death in or about the year 1550.<sup>2</sup>

JOHN COLLYNS (1551–1558). *Sir John Collyns, clerk*, was admitted on 16 March 1550–1 on the presentation of Edward Milton Esq., the church being vacant by the death of *Sir Roger Jenyns*.<sup>3</sup> His name is mentioned in the will of William Swynnerton, Rector of Blymhill, dated in 1538: "I wyll y<sup>t</sup> my preste Sr Jhon Collyns shall have L<sup>v</sup> to syng a yere yn blymyll churche to prey for my solle and my fad<sup>r</sup>s and mod<sup>r</sup>s solls yf my goods wyll performe hyt," and he was one of the witnesses to the will.<sup>4</sup> He died in or about the year 1558.<sup>5</sup>

THOMAS LEEKE (1559–1571). *Thomas Lecke, clerk*, was admitted to the rectory of Weston *subts* Lusyarde 10 Jan. 1558–9 on the presentation of the same patron, on the death of *Sir John Collens*, last incumbent.<sup>6</sup>

WILLIAM CLARKE (1572– ). On 17 March 1571–2 *William Clarke* was admitted on the presentation of Thomas Clarke by the concession of Edward Harpsfeld *alias* Mytton, the true patron, on the death of the last incumbent,<sup>7</sup> whose name however is not given in the register. How long he remained there we do not know. From this point there is a difficulty in tracing the succession of Rectors, so many records having been destroyed in the following century. The next of whom we can speak is

SAMPSON NEWTON (*temp.* Commonwealth—1662). He was educated at Merton Coll., Oxford, where he matriculated 19 Oct. 1621, being then aged 18. He took his B.A. degree 4 November 1622, and that of M.A. 6 July 1625.<sup>8</sup> Dr. Edmund Calamy tells us that Sampson Newton was ejected from Chelsey for praying for the King's children in exile, and that from thence he removed to Weston under Lizard, where he was ejected by the Act of Uniformity, notwithstanding that he was an Episcopal in his judgment and for a Liturgy.<sup>9</sup> Sampson Newton was one of the

<sup>1</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus* (Record ed.), Vol. III, p. 103.

<sup>2</sup> Lichfield Dioc. Reg., Vol. XIV, fo. 49.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> "Staff. Coll.," Vol. VII, Part 2, p. 81 n.

<sup>5</sup> Lichfield Dioc. Reg., Vol. XV, fo. 15.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. XV, fo. 65.

<sup>8</sup> Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses, 1500–1714*.

<sup>9</sup> Calamy's *Abridgement of Mr. Baxter's History of his Life and Times, with account of Ministers &c. ejected at the Restoration* (2nd ed.), Vol. II, p. 633; *cf.* *Nonconformist Memorials*, Vol. III, p. 245 (ed. 1802).





2,000 ministers ejected from their benefices for refusing to comply with the Act of Uniformity, which was passed 24 August 1662. In the Salt Library at Stafford is the following note from Gregory King's MS.: "Weston a Tower and Parish and Rectory. Biterton 5 ho. or 6 in Weston Parish. Tho: Dickin y<sup>e</sup> present Incumbent. Sampson Newton his predecessor outed upon y<sup>e</sup> Restoration at Barth: 1662."<sup>1</sup>

THOMAS DICKIN (1663-1687). He matriculated at Oxford from St. John's College 27 November 1652, and graduated B.A. 25 April 1656.<sup>2</sup> He came to Weston from Hodnet. The *Liber Institutionum* (at the Record Office) gives 28 April 1663 as the date of his institution to the rectory of Weston, and Sir Thomas Wilbraham, Bart., as the patron<sup>3</sup> [*i.e.* in right of his wife Dame Elizabeth, the Mytton heiress]. Several of his children were baptized at Weston, the earliest of such entries in the Weston register occurring in August 1664, but the first in which he is actually described as Rector is as follows: "*Hannah Dickin filia Thomæ Dickin Rect. de Weston subts Lyzyard et Elizabethæ ux. ejus nata fuit decimo tertio die Septembris 1670.*"<sup>4</sup> He was preferred to the vicarage of Walsall co. Staffs. on 11 May 1687.<sup>5</sup>

SAMUEL EDWARDS (1687-1703) was instituted to the rectory of Weston 4 June 1687 on the presentation of Sir Thomas Wilbraham.<sup>6</sup> At the commencement of a new parish register (No. 2) is the following entry: "The Register of the Parish of Weston under Lyziard, bought Nov. 19th, 1701. Samuel Edwards, Rector; Tho. Hand, Tho. Meddins, Churchwardens." From the *Alumni Oxonienses* we find that there was a Samuel Edwards, servitor of Jesus College, who matriculated 21 March 1658-9 and graduated B.A. 1662, taking his M.A. degree from Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1665, and further that one of the same name was Rector of Weston under Lizard co. Staffs. 1687 and of Donington co. Salop 1703.<sup>7</sup> These last dates (1687 and 1703) are corroborated by the *Liber Institutionum*, from which we find that Samuel Edwards was instituted to the living of Donington co. Salop 2 December 1703, where he appears to have remained but a few months, his

<sup>1</sup> A small MS. in the Salt Library, labelled 147, p. 63.

<sup>2</sup> Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*, 1503-1714.

<sup>3</sup> Lib. Inst., Series B, Vol. I, p. 57.

<sup>4</sup> Weston Par. Reg.

<sup>5</sup> Lib. Inst., Series B, Vol. IV, p. 107.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*, 1500-1714.



successor there being instituted 30 April 1704.<sup>1</sup> Whether he continued to hold the living of Weston together with that of Donington is not clear, but his successor at Weston was not appointed until 24 May 1704. During the incumbency of Samuel Edwards we find mention in the diocesan and parochial registers of three other clergymen at Weston, none of whom however was actually Rector of the parish.

The first is *James Illingworth*, who was buried at Weston 30 Aug. 1693,<sup>2</sup> and to whose memory there is a monument outside the church on the wall immediately under the east window, in which he is described as "some time Senior Fellow of Emmanuel College in Cambridge; after Domestick Chaplain to Dame Eliz. Wilbraham." The second is *Abraham Bigos*, who was licensed to serve as deacon in the Church of Weston under Lizard on 12 June 1693.<sup>3</sup> He had been ordained deacon the previous day, although it would seem from the following extract from the diocesan register that he had not succeeded altogether in satisfying the Bishop's examining chaplains as to his proficiency: "*Abraham Bigos educatus in Academia Montalbanensi Podioliaurum translata ad peragend. Diaconi officium in ecclia de Weston subtus Lizard in com. Salop intitulatus, Doctrina et scientia exactat, sed non nisi propter spem melioris profectus approbat. in sacrum Diaconatus Ordinem admissus est.*"<sup>4</sup> The third is *Samuel Berresford*, who was buried at Weston 11 Oct. 1697.<sup>5</sup> He was a native of St. Alkmund's parish, Shrewsbury; originally a Cambridge man, he took *ad eundem* degrees at Oxford, as B.A. in 1637, and as M.A. in 1655; he held the vicarage of S. Werburgh's, Derby, but was ejected in 1662; the latter part of his life he spent at Shifnal, but died at Weston Hall, which was then the residence of Dame Elizabeth Wilbraham.<sup>6</sup>

SAMUEL GARRET (1704-1732) was instituted 24 May 1704 on the presentation of Dame Elizabeth Wilbraham, widow, the rectory being vacant by the cession of Samuel Edwards last incumbent.<sup>7</sup> At the close of the earliest parish register at Weston is the following note:—"Memorandum. that Samuel Garret was inducted into the Parish Church of Weston-und<sup>r</sup>-Lizard the twenty-sixth

<sup>1</sup> Lib. Inst., Series B, Vol. V, p. 155.

<sup>3</sup> Lichfield Dioc. Reg., Vol. XVIII, fo. 3.

<sup>5</sup> Weston Par. Reg.

<sup>6</sup> Trans. of the Shropshire Arch. Soc., 2nd Series, Vol. I, p. 85; Foster's Alumni Oxoniense, 1500-1714.

<sup>7</sup> Lichfield Dioc. Reg., Vol. XIX, fo. 39.

<sup>2</sup> Weston Par. Reg.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*



day of May, Anno Dni 1704, by me Samuel Collier, Vic: of Sherriff Hales, in presence of Thomas Pinches, Robt. Taylor, Janael Ryder (his mark), Henry Babb, Thomas Meddins." Samuel Garret was probably the person of that name who took his B.A. degree from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1686.<sup>1</sup> He was collated to the Archdeaconry of Salop on 5 October 1726,<sup>2</sup> and was buried at Weston 18 April 1732.<sup>3</sup> A monument to his memory and to that of his family is erected outside the east wall of the church. During his incumbency the rectory of Weston had an augmentation grant of £200 from the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty.<sup>4</sup>

SAMUEL GARRET (1732-1756). This was a son of Archdeacon Garret, and he succeeded his father as Rector of Weston, to which benefice he was collated on 25 Sept. 1732<sup>5</sup> by the Bishop of Lichfield, to whom the presentation had lapsed. Two persons of this name are mentioned in the *Graduati Cantabrigienses* as having taken their degrees from Emmanuel College about this time, of whom one graduated M.A. in 1724 and the other B.A. in 1726.<sup>6</sup> Samuel Garret, the younger, was buried at Weston 26 October 1756.<sup>7</sup>

RICE WILLIAMS (1756-1791). His name is entered in the parish register as follows: "Rice Williams Rector, A.M. e Col. Emanl. Cantab."<sup>8</sup> It is doubtless the same person whose name appears as having graduated M.A. from that college in 1759.<sup>9</sup> He was instituted 2 November 1756 on the presentation of Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Bart.,<sup>10</sup> the committee of the estates of Thomas (Newport) 4th Earl of Bradford, who was *non compos mentis*. He apparently died in 1791, though the only entry in the register which could refer to his burial in that year is "Thomas Williams was buried August 2<sup>nd</sup>."<sup>11</sup>

THOMAS COTES (1791-1801). He was instituted 15 August 1791 on the presentation of Sir Henry Bridgeman, Bart.,<sup>12</sup> and his name is thus recorded in the parish register after a gap which follows the entry of Thomas Williams's burial:—"The Revd. Thos. Cotes, Rector, 1791."<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Grad. Cantab., 1659-1823.

<sup>2</sup> Le Neve's Fasti Ecel. Angl., Vol. I, p. 575.

<sup>3</sup> Weston Par. Reg.

<sup>5</sup> Lib. Inst., Series C, Vol. I, p. 102b.

<sup>6</sup> Grad. Cantab., 1659-1823.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> Lib. Inst., Series C, Vol. I, p. 103.

<sup>12</sup> Lib. Inst., Series C, Vol. I, p. 103b.

<sup>4</sup> London Gazette, 9 Dec. 1727.

<sup>7</sup> Weston Par. Reg.

<sup>9</sup> Grad. Cantab., 1659-1823.

<sup>11</sup> Weston Par. Reg.

<sup>13</sup> Weston Par. Reg.





HON. GEORGE BRIDGEMAN (1801–1832). George Bridgeman, fifth son of Sir Henry Bridgeman, Bart., 1st Lord Bradford, was born in St. James's Square 11 August 1765. He was entered as a pensioner at Queen's College, Cambridge, in 1782, becoming a fellow-commoner in 1785,<sup>1</sup> and taking his degree there as B.A. 1787 and as M.A. in 1790.<sup>2</sup> He was appointed to the rectory of Wigan co. Lanes. in 1790, and was also some time Rector of Pleinstall co. Chester. He was instituted to the rectory of Weston 23 February 1801 on the presentation of Lord Bradford,<sup>3</sup> and continued to hold the livings of Wigan and Weston until his death. He died 27 October, and was buried at Weston 7 November, 1832. He married (1st) in 1792 Lucy Isabella Boyle, daughter of Edmund 7th Earl of Cork, and by her, who died in 1801, he had three sons and four daughters; and (2ndly) in 1810 Charlotte Louisa, daughter of William Poyntz of Midgham House co. Berks., Esq., by whom he had no issue.<sup>4</sup>

OSWALD FEILDEN (1833–1858). He was son of Robert Feilden of Prestbury co. Chester Esq., and went up to Brasenose College, Oxford, where he matriculated 14 Oct. 1814 being then aged 16. He took his degree as B.A. in 1828 and as M.A. in 1831,<sup>5</sup> and was ordained deacon 1821 and priest 1822. He was Curate of Weston from the year 1828, and was preferred to the rectory and instituted 30 January 1833. He resigned the living of Weston 25 December 1858, and died at Leasingham House, co. Lincoln, 27 November 1872.<sup>6</sup>

HON. JOHN ROBERT ORLANDO BRIDGEMAN (1859–1897). John R. O. Bridgeman, third son of George A. F. H. 2nd Earl of Bradford, was born 18 August 1831, and educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated M.A. in 1853. He was ordained deacon 1857, and priest 1858, both by the Bishop of Manchester. He was curate of Prestwich, co. Lanes., from 1857 to 1859, and was presented to the rectory of Weston 1 January, and instituted 2 February, 1859. He was appointed Rural Dean of Brewood in 1869, which office he resigned in 1885. Mr. Bridgeman married 5 June 1862 Marianne Caroline, only daughter of the Ven. William Clive, Archdeacon of Montgomery,

<sup>1</sup> *Ex inf.* the Rev. H. E. Ryle, D.D., President of Queen's College, Cambridge.

<sup>2</sup> Grad. Cantab., 1659–1823.

<sup>3</sup> Lib. Inst., Series C, Vol. I, p. 104.

<sup>4</sup> Monument in Weston Church; Canon Bridgeman's Hist. of the Church and Manor of Wigan, p. 640.

<sup>5</sup> Foster's Alumni Oxonienses, 1715–1886.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*



by whom he had issue, besides a daughter Georgina Emily Mary, who died in 1869, an only son William Clive (now of Leigh Manor co. Salop). He died at 89 Harley Street, London, 26 November, and was buried at Weston 30 November, 1897.

GERALD HENRY COLVILE (1898). Gerald Henry Colvile, third son of the Rev. Frederick Leigh Colvile, Vicar of Leek Wootton, Warwickshire, was born 27 April 1859, and educated at Christ Church, Oxford. He was ordained deacon in 1884, and priest in 1885, both by the Bishop of Southwell. He was Curate of Seareliffe, co. Derby, from 1884 to 1885, and of Lighthorne, co. Warwick, from 1885 to 1888, and Vicar of Dodford, co. Northampton, from 1888 to 1895. He was instituted to the rectory of Weston on 27 May 1898. He married 20 Jan. 1886 Mary Elinor, eldest daughter of the Rev. Brabazon Hallowes, of Glapwell Hall, co. Derby, and has issue, besides a daughter who died in infancy, one son, Mansel Brabazon Fiennes, born 19 Jan. 1887, and two daughters, Margaret Elinor, and Evelyn May.



## VII. THE CHURCH, HALL, ETC.

THE Parish Church, which is connected with the Hall by a covered passage, is dedicated to St. Andrew. The tower and the east wall of the chancel are the only parts of the original structure now remaining; the former dates from the 15th century, and the latter from about the middle of the 14th. The church was restored, and practically rebuilt, by Dame Elizabeth Wilbraham about two hundred years ago: at the commencement of one of the parish registers we find the following entry: "The old Church was pulled down, April, 1700. The foundation of the new Church began to be laid, on Friday, May 3rd, 1700. The new Church was first preached in on Saint Andrew's day, Novem. 30th, 1701. This new Church was erected at the proper cost and charges of Dame Elizabeth Wilbraham." In the library of Weston there is a small volume on architecture,<sup>1</sup> on the fly-leaves of which are some interesting MS. notes in Lady Wilbraham's own handwriting relating to her extensive building operations at Weston and Woodhey, which show what a personal interest she took in them, and how carefully and practically she herself superintended what was going on. The notes which refer to Weston Church are as follows:—

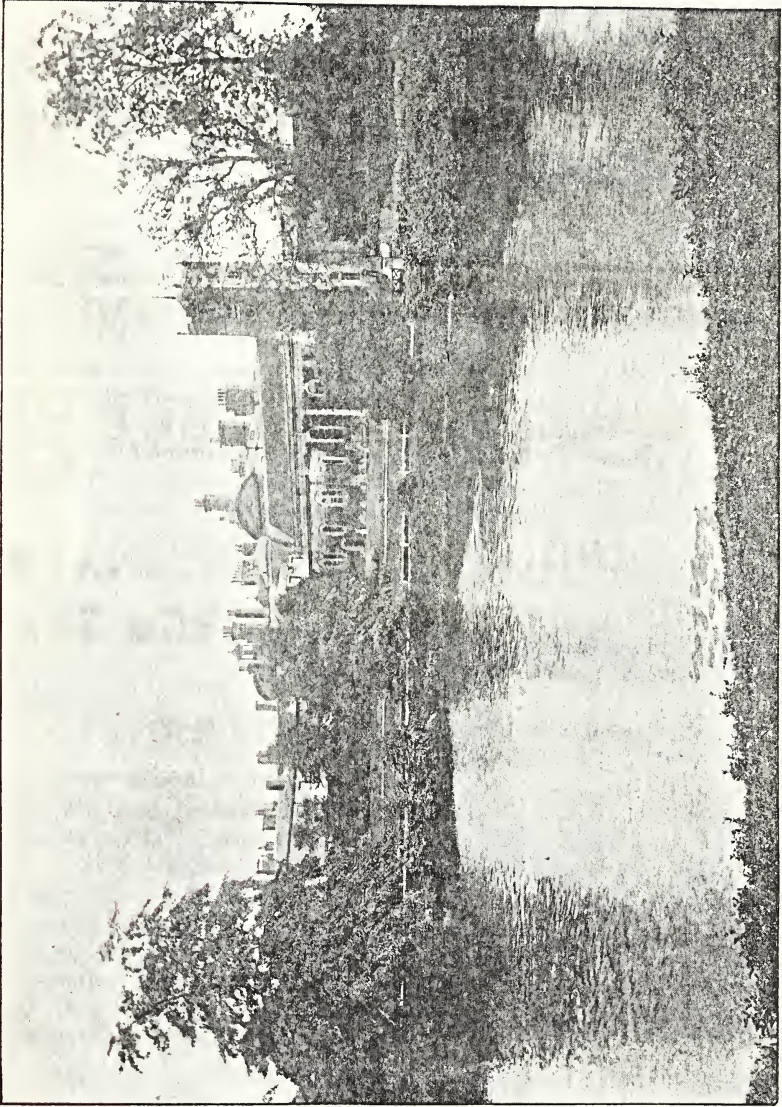
"The mesuer of y<sup>e</sup> Old Chereh att Weston as before y<sup>e</sup> rebuilding thereof in 1699.

The Length of y <sup>e</sup> Chansell from y <sup>e</sup> east window to y <sup>e</sup> Skreene w <sup>th</sup> devideth y <sup>e</sup> Chansell & Chereh, 22: 8 foot, 8: inches.	}	22 8
The Length of y <sup>e</sup> Chereh Seperate from y <sup>e</sup> Chansell, 46 foot, 10 inchs.	}	46 10
The Chansell Longe 22 foot 8 inches.	}	{ the whole Length of Chereh & Chansell. } 69 6
The Chereh in length 46 foot 10 inches.	}	
The Widenes of the Chereh w <sup>th</sup> in, 21: foot, 5 inches.		

<sup>1</sup> "The First Book of Architecture, by Andrea Palladio, translated out of the Italian, &c., by Godfrey Richards." London, 1663.







Weston Church from the North.



The Widenes from out side to out side, 26: foot, 6 inches.  
 The seats on y<sup>e</sup> south side Longe, 8 foot.  
 The seats on y<sup>e</sup> North side Longe, 6 foot, 9 inches } 21 5  
 The Widenes of y<sup>e</sup> Ayle ... .. 6 foot 8 inches }

Seats 6 to y<sup>e</sup> south side each 3. 4. wide.  
 155 foot of Black & white marble to pave the }  
 Chansell in Weston Chereh (1701) att 1<sup>s</sup> 9<sup>d</sup> per } 13 11 3  
 foot Cost }

Carage & a boxe to pack y<sup>e</sup> marble, 4 6 0"  
 " Mr Pereponds! Joyner offers March 1701 to Wancote y<sup>e</sup> Chereh  
 att Weston for y<sup>e</sup> rates underneath.

O: G to a Wall wrought on One side, 18<sup>d</sup> per yard Runing Measuer.

O: G w<sup>th</sup> a break in y<sup>e</sup> panill, 29<sup>d</sup> per ... ..

A wancote that is rougt on both sides, worke & halfe.

Glue & mayles into y<sup>e</sup> joyners part.

A Smale sort of Moulden on y<sup>e</sup> Edges of the puez.

An Achitrave & smale Cornish round under y<sup>e</sup> windowes.

The best Oke boards vallued att inch thicknes, 18<sup>s</sup> per C :<sup>2</sup>

The best att halfe inch thicknes, 12<sup>s</sup> per C :

Rate 2<sup>d</sup> half penny a yard."

The following would also seem to refer to the church at  
 Weston :

" I bargand. w<sup>th</sup> Sr W<sup>m</sup>. Wilson to sett up 4: Monum<sup>ts</sup>. 2 of y<sup>e</sup>  
 better 2 of y<sup>e</sup> Worser for £20. 0. 0, I finding Alaplaster &  
 Marble.

The price of y<sup>e</sup> best of y<sup>e</sup> Monum<sup>ts</sup> w<sup>th</sup> Alaplaster at  
 London is ... .. £8 0 0

W<sup>th</sup> Marble insted of Alaplaster for ... .. 14 0 0

if w<sup>th</sup> Gold Letters on Black Marble Each Letter is a farthinge  
 more in Gilding then in black letters upon white Marble.

Sr W<sup>m</sup> Wilson way of making Morter to poynt w<sup>th</sup>. Take y<sup>e</sup>  
 best Lime, & drift Sand, sift it very fine, & make it up as for  
 morter, Lett it lye & beate it, day after day, for 5 or 6 days  
 together, putting noe watter to it; Then when you use it for  
 poynting, lett all y<sup>e</sup> Old Morter bee pickt out, as farr as is possible,  
 & then wett the place, Extremely much w<sup>th</sup> a brush; And then  
 poynt in, a seasnable time of y<sup>e</sup> year."

It is most probable that another short memorandum on a slip

<sup>1</sup> Gervase Pierrepont, second son of the Hon. William Pierrepont of Thoresby,  
 was then the owner of Tong Castle. He was afterwards created Baron Pierrepont  
 of Hauelope.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.*, probably per square of 100 superficial square feet.





of paper pinned to one of the fly-leaves of the same volume relates to the old crusader monuments in Weston Church :

“Mr. Cotes painter from London . . . . . 12<sup>d</sup> a yard for all Stone worke ruring measuer, 5<sup>s</sup> panting two figuers of Wood. agred May 17, 703” [1703].

The church was again restored in 1876; as it stood before that time, it consisted simply of a nave and chancel, a single step being the only division between them. It was fitted with oak pews throughout, the chancel being occupied on the north side by the Rector's pew, and on the south side by a large square pew with a fire-place and marble chimney-piece, under which was the family vault belonging to the lords of Weston; between these pews and the altar, which was, and is still, protected by an iron railing with the Royal arms placed somewhat conspicuously in the centre, were doors on each side, that on the north leading to the vestry, and that on the south to the Hall grounds. Down the middle of the church was a long bench, on which the schoolchildren used to sit, the girls being dressed in dark brown frocks, with white tippets, white straw bonnets, and scarlet cloaks. In a gallery at the west end was a barrel organ, which seems to have been erected by Lucy, Lady Bradford, in 1803; for in a letter, dated 5 Dec. of that year, from a Mr. John Marsh at Weston to a Mr. Bowman then staying at Knoekin, but apparently in Lord Bradford's employment on the Weston estate, the former writes:—

“I have had a very long letter from our Lady, in one place she says, the Organ will come by the Chester waggon on y<sup>e</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> to be set up to play on Xmas day, and y<sup>e</sup> Tunes I will send you soon that you &c. may learn them to sing to it.”

At the last restoration in 1876,<sup>1</sup> during the accomplishment of which were found traces of a still older Norman church, which had apparently stood upon the same site,<sup>2</sup> the principal alterations and improvements were the taking down of the gallery, the erection of a vestry and organ chamber, in place of the old vestry, with a north transept adjoining, the building of a chapel (for the use of the Earl of Bradford and his family) on the south side of the chancel, the re-laying the chancel floor with stone and tiles, the erection of choir-stalls, the putting in of a new waggon-roof, the provision

<sup>1</sup> The Church was re-opened for Divine Service on 4 Jan. 1877 (Weston Parish Almanack for 1878).

<sup>2</sup> Two small fragments of this old Norman church have now been built into the inner wall of the tower near the entrance.





of a new font and of a reredos in marble and mosaics, and the removal of the pews and the substitution for them of open seats throughout the church. The cost, which amounted to about £3,500, was defrayed by Orlando George Charles, 3rd Earl of Bradford, with the exception of the re-laying of the chancel floor and the new font and reredos, which were given by his brother, the Hon. and Rev. John R. O. Bridgeman, then Rector of Weston. A new organ was added in 1878, at a cost of £318, which was defrayed by collections in church and voluntary subscriptions from parishioners and friends. The handsome oak pulpit, with its sounding-board, erected by Dame Elizabeth Wilbraham, still remains in its place.

The Bells, three in number, are of exceptional interest, being all of pre-Reformation date; and No. 1 is considered by one of the greatest authorities on the subject, Mr. Lynam, the author of "The Church Bells of the county of Stafford," to be one of the seven oldest bells in the whole of Staffordshire.<sup>1</sup> The inscriptions on them are as follows:—No. 1: "*Ave Maria gratia plena.*" No. 2: "*Michael veni in adiutorium populo tuo.*" No. 3: "*Ave Maria.*"

The east window, which was restored by Hardman in 1876, still contains much of the early fourteenth century glass.<sup>2</sup> In the tracery at the top of the window are three quatrefoils, each containing a shield of arms, viz., in the upper one, *gu.* three lions passant guardant *or* (England); on the left (facing eastwards), chequy *az.* and *or* (Warren); and on the right, *gu.* a lion rampant *or* (FitzAlan, Earl of Arundel). Beneath the quatrefoils are three long lights, of which the middle one is surrounded by a border of oak leaves and acorns and the other two by borders of vine leaves and bunches of grapes. In the upper parts of these lights are represented the figures of our Lord upon the Cross with the Virgin Mary and St. John standing on each side, all beneath canopies of tabernacle work; the lower parts of the same lights contain the figure of St. Andrew (the patron saint) upon his cross, in the middle, and the kneeling figures of a knight and a lady, Sir John de Weston and his first wife Isabella de Bromley, on the left and right. The knight, who is kneeling on one knee with folded hands, is attired in a hauberk of chain mail, the upper part of which is attached by rivets to a round

<sup>1</sup> "The Church Bells of the county of Stafford," by Charles Lynam, p. ix. Illustrations of the lettering &c. on all the three Weston bells are given on pp 15. and 32 of the same work.

<sup>2</sup> Ante, p. 43.



*cervezière* or bascinet covering the skull: the arms and legs are cased in chain mail of (seemingly) alternate stripes of white and yellow metal, with roundels on the elbows and poleyns on the knees: the hands are bare, gauntlets being suspended from the wrists: on the surcoat are his armorial bearings as in the shield above him (described below): attached to his feet by straps over the instep and beneath the sole are gilt rowell spurs: by his left side from a green belt hangs a sword, of which nothing but the gilded hilt with its circular pommel at his waist and the point by his foot are visible: behind his shoulders is an oblong green pillow.<sup>1</sup> The lady is represented with braided hair, over which is a white veil or kerchief falling down to her shoulders; the head however is modern, having been restored in 1876 to what is supposed to have been its original condition: she wears a blue kirtle, of which only the close fitting sleeves are visible, and a loose sleeveless gown bearing her coat of arms as given below. Above the figure of the knight is a shield with his arms (*sa.* an eagle displayed *arg.* membered *or.* with a label of three points fretty *or.*), and below him the words *DÑS HHOIAÑS*: above the lady is a shield bearing the Bromley arms (quarterly per fess indented *or* and *gu.*),<sup>2</sup> and below her the words *DÑE ISABELLA*: above the figure of St. Andrew is a shield bearing the Audley arms (*gu.* fretty *or.*). At the bottom of the window, below these names, are three more shields, viz. (1) on the left, per pale indented *arg.* and *sa.* (Birmingham), impaling *arg.* a cross formée fleury *sa.*, on a canton *gu.* a lion's [or wolf's] head erased *arg.* crowned *or* (Peshale); (2) on the right, quarterly, 1st and 4th per pale indented *arg.* and *sa.* (Birmingham), 2nd and 3rd *az.* a bend lozenge *or* (Birmingham ancient); and (3) in the middle, *gu.* a lion rampant *arg.* crowned *or* (*gu.* another Peshale coat). Such is the window as it now appears, but the scene from the Crucifixion is new, as is also the figure of St. Andrew the patron saint.<sup>3</sup> Before 1876 the old glass in it was somewhat differently placed, and had in the middle light been put together

<sup>1</sup> From the fashion of the armour, which combines some of the characteristics of the surcoat period with others of the period which immediately succeeded it, we may perhaps conclude that this window dates from the first quarter of the fourteenth century. It was probably put up by Sir John de Weston shortly after the death, if not during the lifetime, of his first wife, who died in 1317.

<sup>2</sup> In the Bromley arms, as usually given, these tinctures are reversed.

<sup>3</sup> Amongst the detached pieces of glass, which before the restoration of this window in 1876 were collected together in the middle light, was a head with the



without much attempt at orderly arrangement. It included the figures of Sir John de Weston and his wife and all the above mentioned shields of arms as well as the greater part of the foliated borders and tabernacle canopies. But neither the present arrangement of the window nor its appearance before 1876 represents exactly the original design. Its condition in the seventeenth century is fortunately known to us from three independent MSS. still extant. The first is the frequently quoted Add. MS. 18667 (at the British Museum), where on fo. 43 under the words "*Ad hunc motum inter sex clipeos unè cum reliquis hæc due infra adumbrata effigies in Orientali sacrorii fenestra de Weston subtus Luzers sunt colorate*" is an illuminated drawing of the two kneeling figures with the three shields at the top of the window, as they now are, and below the figures the three shields which are now placed immediately above them. This drawing was made *circa*. 1632. The second is Harl. MS. 2129 (also at the British Museum), being Church Notes taken *circa*. 1660, in which on fo. 171 (new notation 195) under the heading "In Weston Chappell in the county of *Salop*, etc."<sup>1</sup> is a rough pen and ink sketch of this window, showing similar figures and the six shields in the same positions, the chief differences being that here in the Royal arms at the top of the window the lions of England are quartered with the fleurs de lys of France and that the tinctures of the label on the Weston arms are given as *or fretty sa*.<sup>2</sup> The Audley shield, now above the figure of St. Andrew, is here stated to be "at the feete of an image which is broke & defaced & not knowne what to be." The third MS. is Dugdale's Visitation of Staffordshire in 1663 (at the College of Arms), which under

name of St. Andrew, but whether this formed part of the original east window or not it is impossible to say.

<sup>1</sup> It was doubtless this heading which misled Eyton, the Shropshire historian, and caused him to quote the description of this window from the Harl. MS. as referring to Weston Chapel near Red Castle co. Salop, instead of to Weston-under-Lizard co. Staffs. (See "*Ant. Shrop.*," Vol. IX, p. 347.)

<sup>2</sup> In Add. MS. 18667 these tinctures are given as *gu. fretty or*, as in the Audley arms. There is a representation of the kneeling figures of this knight and his lady, with three shields beneath them, in one of the plates in "*Dallaway's Heraldry*," stated to have been taken from a voluminous pedigree of the Weston family, drawn up by Sir William Segar for Jerome Weston, Earl of Portland, and then (1793) in the possession of John Heathfield Hicks, M.D., of Gloucester; a coloured reproduction of this part of Dallaway's plate forms the frontispiece of a small *Manual of Heraldry* published by Hall, Virtue and Co., but the tinctures are not there given correctly.





“Weston subtus Liziard 22<sup>o</sup> Sept: 1663” (Church Notes, fo. 30) gives a very similar description of the east window, but the kneeling figures are described as “the portraiture of a man in armour and of his wife both kneeling before *our Lady*.” From a comparison of these MSS. we also learn that the middle shield now at the bottom of the east window was formerly in the south window of the chancel, while the other two now on each side of it were then in a south window of the church by the pulpit, as it was then placed, and beneath them the kneeling figures of a man and lady in surcoat and robe with their respective arms as in the shields above. In the same window, or another on the same side, by the pulpit were formerly the arms of Bottetort (*or* a saltire engrailed *sa.*) and Peshale (*arg.* a cross formée fleury *sa.*, on a canton *gu.* a lion’s [or wolf’s] head erased *arg.* crowned *or*): and in the north window of the chancel over the effigy of one of the crusaders were the Weston arms (*or* an eagle displayed *sa.*).

The chancel is full of monuments, the inscriptions on which form a sort of pedigree of the inheritors of Weston. The two oldest are recumbent figures in oak of knights in armour with their legs crossed. These have no original inscriptions, and probably they never had any. They now lie under stone arches in recesses on the north and south sides of the chancel within the altar rails. From church notes taken in the seventeenth century it appears that one of them was in a similar position on the north side of the chancel of the old church and above it a window with a shield bearing the arms of the de Westons, whilst the other was somewhere in the body of the church.<sup>1</sup> Whom they represent it is impossible to say with any certainty, but it would seem that they were both crusaders, and it may be conjectured with some confidence that one of them represents Hugh de Weston the Palmer, whom we suppose to be the first Sir Hugh de Weston, lord of Weston 1227 to *c.* 1259. On tablets above these monuments are some comparatively modern inscriptions, doubtless put up by Dame Elizabeth Wilbraham at the time of her restoration of the church; they are therefore not authoritative, and are in some respects certainly incorrect, being compiled apparently from the pedigree drawn up by Segar and Lily in 1632. That on the north runs as follows:

<sup>1</sup> Add. MS 18667, fos. 42, 42b (notes taken *circa* 1632); Harl. MS. 2129, fo. 171, new notation 195 (notes taken *circa* 1660).



“S<sup>r</sup> HAMO de WESTON  
 Knight of the order of TEMPLARS  
 Father of ROBERT and OSBERT  
 Grandfather to JOHN  
 Great-grandfather to S<sup>r</sup> HUGH Knight  
 departed this life  
 about the year  
 MCLXXXVIII.  
 I.”

Arms : (above) *or* an eagle displayed *sa.* (Weston), impaling (blank) ;  
 (on left) the same ; (on right) the same.

That on the south :

S<sup>r</sup> HUGH de WESTON  
 Knight of the order of TEMPLARS  
 Who married . . . . . AUDTHLEY  
 of NEWPORT in SHROPSHIRE  
 by whom he had  
 JOHN,  
 Who married ISABELLA de BROMLEY  
 and had by her  
 THOMAS,  
 Who married KATHERINE, Daughter  
 of THOMAS FOULHURST Esq.  
 died about the year  
 MCCCIV.  
 II.”

Arms : (above) Weston, impaling *gu.* fretty *or* (Audley) ; (on left)  
 Weston, impaling quarterly per fess indented *or.* and *gu.* (Bromley) ;  
 (on right) Weston, impaling *gu.* fretty *or.* a chief ermine (Fouleshurst).

There are six other monuments on the same walls, which are  
 of a similar character to one another, except that the first two  
 are, like the two already mentioned, on black marble with gilt  
 letters, and the remaining four are on white marble with black  
 letters. The first two were almost certainly, and the other four  
 very possibly, erected by Dame Elizabeth Wilbraham. The  
 highest on the north wall of the chancel is inscribed as follows :

“ELIZABETH Sister and Coheir  
 of  
 THOMAS de WESTON Esq.  
 Who married ADAM de PESHAL Esq.  
 by whom she had one son  
 ADAM,  
 Who married LOYCE daughter of  
 S<sup>r</sup> JOHN de BOTEFORT Knight,  
 and had by her two daughters  
 MARGARET and IONE  
 died about the year  
 MCCCLXVI.  
 3.”



Arms: (above) *gu.* a lion rampant *arg.* crowned *or* (*qu.* Peshale), impaling Weston; (below) *arg.* a cross formée fleury *sa.*, on a canton *gu.* a wolf's head erased *arg.* crowned *or* (Peshale), impaling *or* a saltire engrailed *sa.* (Bottetort).

The highest on the south wall:

“MARGARET daughter and Coheir  
of

ADAM de PESHAL Esq.

Who married RICHARD son of

S<sup>r</sup> REGINALD MUTTON

of SALOP Knight

and had by him

WILLIAM

Who married a daughter

of . . . . . CORBET of LEE in SHROPSHIRE

died about the year

MCCCCXXXIX.

IV.”

Arms: (above) per pale *az.* and *gu.*, an eagle displayed with two heads within a bordure engrailed *or* (Mytton), impaling Peshale; (below) Mytton, impaling *arg.* two ravens in pale *sa.* membered *gu.* within a bordure engrailed of the last (Corbet).

On the north wall, to the left:

“JOHN son and Heir  
of

WILLIAM MYTTON of WESTON Esq.

who married ANNE,

The Heiress of

THOMAS SWINNERTON of HILTON Esq.

and had by her one son

JOHN,

who married IONE the Daughter

of RICHARD MIDDLEMORE of EDGEASTON

in the County of WARWICK Esq.

died about the year

MCCCLXIII.

V.”

Arms: (above) Mytton, impaling *arg.* a cross formée fleury *sa.* within a bordure engrailed *gu.* (Swynnerton); (below) Mytton, impaling per chevron *arg.* and *sa.*, in chief two cocks *sa.* beaked and membered *gu.* (Middlemore).

To the right:

“JOHN SON and Heir

of JOHN MYTTON of WESTON Esq.

who married EUSTAUCE Daughter of

S<sup>r</sup> RICH. BEAUMONT of WEDDESBURY





in the County of STAFFORD Knight,  
and had by her one Daughter

LOYCE

departed this life

Feb. XVI, A.D. MDLII.

VI.

Arms above: Mytton, impaling *az.* semée of fleurs de lys, a lion rampant *or* (Beaumont).

On the south wall, to the left:

“LOYCE Daughter and Heir

of

JOHN MYTTON of WESTON Esq.

who married

JOHN HARPSFIELD of LONDON, Gent.

and had by her one son,

EDWARD,

who married ANNE, Daughter of

THO. SKRYMSHER of NORBURY Esq.

died about the year

MDL.

VII.”

Arms: (above) *arg.* three harps *sa.* (Harpsfield), impaling Mytton; (below) Mytton, impaling *gu.* a lion rampant *or* within a bordure *vair* (Skrymsher).

To the right:

“JOHN Son and Heir

of EDWARD MYTTON alias HARPSFIELD Esq.

who married ELIZABETH Daughter of

EDWARD BRETT of KILNE

in the County of STAFFORD Esq.

by whom he had one son

EDWARD

was buried May XIX

A.D. MDXXV.

VIII.”

Arms above: Mytton, impaling *arg.* on a chevron *az.* three bezants, in chief (as mark of cadency) an annulet *gu.* (Brett).

On the east wall of the chancel, to the north of the east window, is a large monument:

“EDOARDO MYTTON

de WESTON subtus LYZIARD Armigero

IOHANNIS F. EDOARDI N

Qui obiit x<sup>o</sup> Febr A<sup>o</sup> D MDCXXXII

et

CECILLÆ uxori ejus

GVIL SKEFFINGTONI de FISHERWICK Baronetti F



parentibus charissimis

P

D<sup>na</sup> ELIZABETHA Filia et hæres  
uxor THOMÆ WILBRAHAM  
de WOODHEY in com CESTR  
Baronetti."

Arms above : Mytton, impaling *arg.* three bulls' heads erased *sa.* armed and langued *gu.* (Skeffington).

Over it a smaller tablet :

" Within the Vault beneath  
lieth the Body of the Lady  
ELIZABETH COCKS  
Second daughter to RICHARD  
late Earl of BRADFORD,  
and late the Wife of  
JAMES COCKS  
of y<sup>e</sup> City of WORCESTER Esq.  
one of the Nephews  
of the late Lord SOMERS.  
She departed this life  
the 11th day of July  
1732.  
Leaving only one Son."

Arms above : quarterly, 1st and 4th *sa.* a chevron between three stags' attires *arg.* (Cocks), 2nd and 3rd *vert* a fess dancettée *ermine* (Somers), impaling *arg.* a chevron *gu.* between three leopards' faces *sa.* (Newport).

Also on the east wall of the chancel, to the south of the east window, another large monument :

" M.S.

D<sup>na</sup> ELIZABETHÆ WILBRAHAM  
EDOARDI MYTTON Arm et CECILIÆ ux.  
Filiæ et Hæredis,  
THOMÆ WILBRAHAM Bar.  
Conjugis charissimæ.  
cujus Pietas,  
ergà suos Parentes,  
dudùm emicuit  
in Marmore juxta posito :  
et per Singula,  
Uxoris,  
Matris,  
Viteq; aded omnis  
officia,  
uberius fusiùsq; dimanavit eadem.  
Quos denuò sumptus,  
minimè fucatæ Religionis intuitu,  
fecit :



in exstruendis, adornandis, muniendisq,  
 .Edibus Sacris,  
 testetur hæc plusquam instaurata Ecclesia ;  
 et Capella,  
 ad WOODHEY in Agro CESTRIENSI,  
 penitus ædificata ;  
 ambæ deniq, ab Illa,  
 annuo xxxx Librarum reditu,  
 auctæ simul et locupletate.  
 obijt xxvii<sup>o</sup> Jul. A<sup>o</sup> D. MDCCV. Ætat : LXXIV.  
 jacetq,  
 in proprio subtùs Conditorio.  
 olim meritissima,  
 etiamnum desideranda.”

Arms above : *arg.* three bends wavy *az.* (Wilbraham), with badge of Ulster on canton, on an escutcheon of pretence Mytton.

Over it another smaller tablet :

“ Within the Vault beneath lieth the  
 Body of JAMES COCKS Jun<sup>r</sup> Esq.  
 only Son of JAMES COCKS of y<sup>e</sup>  
 City of WORCESTER Esq. by y<sup>e</sup>  
 Lady ELIZABETH his Wife  
 Second Daughter to RICHARD  
 late Earl of BRADFORD.

His early Piety accompanied with  
 the admirable parts God had blessed  
 him with gave undoubted Hopes to  
 all who ever had the pleasure of  
 conversing with him that he would  
 have made a great as well as a good  
 Man. He departed this life y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> day  
 of March 1734. in y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> year of his Age.”

Arms above : quarterly, Coeks and Somers. Crest : a stag lodged *arg.*

There are several other monuments in the church, one of the most elaborate being that of Richard Earl of Bradford on the north wall of the nave :

“ M.S.  
 Honoratissimi et munificentissimi Domini,  
 RICHARDI Domini NEWPORT,  
 Baronis NEWPORT de HIGH-ERCALL,  
 Vice-comitis NEWPORT de BRADFORD,  
 in Agro SALOPIENSI.  
 Quo in Comitatu Dominus Locum tenens,  
 Atq, in eodem, itemq, in altero de MONTGOMERY,  
 Custos Rotulorum constitutus,  
 Meruit insuper ut Serenissimo Regi GEORGIO





A Secretioribus esset Consilijs.  
 Uxorem felicissimis auspicijs duxit,  
 Dignissimam quae tali Viro nuberet,  
 MARIAM Filiam et Coheredem  
 THOMÆ WILBRAHAM  
 De WOODHEY in Comit : CESTRIENSI  
 et de WESTON subter LIZIARD  
 in Comitatu STAFFORDIENSI, Baronetti.  
 E quâ Filios Suscepit sex,  
 Henricum, Richardum, Thomam,  
 Andream, Franciscum, Gulielmum,  
 Et Filias quatuor,  
 Mariam, Elizabetham, Annam, Dianam.  
 Ambo autem demum  
 Ut erant totâ vitâ conjunctissimi,  
 Itâ hic indivisi reuerberant.  
 Natus Ille 3<sup>o</sup> Septembr. 1644. obiit 14<sup>o</sup> Jun. 1723.  
 Haec nata Quinto Junij 1661. obiit 3<sup>o</sup> Dec : 1737."

Arms above: Newport, on an escutcheon of pretence Wilbraham, quartering Mytton. Supporters: two leopards rampant guardant *ppr.* Over the shield an earl's coronet and a peer's helmet surmounted by a crest: a unicorn's head *arg.* armed and ducally gorged *or.*

Also on the north wall of the nave, nearer to the chancel, a smaller tablet:

"Sacred to the memory of  
 the Hon<sup>ble</sup> and Rev<sup>d</sup> George Bridgeman,  
 Rector of Wigan and Weston.  
 Died Oct<sup>br</sup> xxvii<sup>th</sup> m<sup>o</sup>c<sup>o</sup>c<sup>o</sup>xxxii  
 aged lxxvii.  
 'Well done, good and faithful servant,  
 Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.'  
 In erecting this tablet to the memory of an ever to be  
 lamented husband, and father, his afflicted widow and  
 children bow with submission to the will of God,  
 cheered by the hope of an united immortality.'

Immediately below it another:

"In memory of  
 Elizabeth Isabella,  
 wife of  
 the Rev<sup>d</sup> Egerton Arden Bagot,  
 eldest daughter of  
 the Hon<sup>ble</sup> & Rev<sup>d</sup> George and Lady Lucy Bridgeman,  
 died November 17<sup>th</sup> 1824,  
 aged 31.  
 'Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.'



Another large monument on the south wall of the nave :

“ Within the Vault under this Church  
lie interred the remains of the following  
Noble and Worthy Personages.

The Lady Mary Newport eldest daughter of  
Richard Earl of Bradford died unmarried the  
xi<sup>th</sup> Iuly MDCCXI aged xxx years.

The Lady Ann Bridgeman third daughter of the  
said Richard Earl of Bradford and wife of  
Sir Orlando Bridgeman of Castle Bromwich  
in the County of Warwick and of Blodwell  
in the County of Salop Baronet  
died the xix<sup>th</sup> August MDCCII aged LXII years.

Thomas Earl of Bradford third son of the  
said Richard Earl of Bradford died unmarried  
the xviii<sup>th</sup> April MDCCXII  
aged LXXV years.

Sir Orlando Bridgeman Baronet died the  
xxv<sup>th</sup> Iuly MDCCXIV aged LXX years.

George Bridgeman Esquire second Son of the  
said Sir Orlando Bridgeman by Lady Ann his  
wife died the xxvi<sup>th</sup> December MDCCXVII  
aged XL years.

Henry Simpson Bridgeman Esquire eldest  
son of Sir Henry Bridgeman Baronet  
by Dame Elizabeth his wife  
died the xxvi<sup>th</sup> Iuly MDCCXXXII  
aged xxv years.

Henry Bridgeman Lord Bradford  
Baron Bradford of Bradford in the  
County of Salop and Baronet  
born vii<sup>th</sup> September MDCCXXV  
died v<sup>th</sup> Iune MDCCC.

The Lady Lucy Bridgeman only daughter  
of Edmund Earl of Cork and Orrery and wife  
of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> and Rev<sup>d</sup> George Bridgeman  
Rector of Wigan in Lancashire  
born i<sup>th</sup> August MDCCXVI  
died vii<sup>th</sup> September MDCCCI.



Charles Henry Coote Earl of Mountrath  
of Weeting Hall in the County of Norfolk  
born 1<sup>st</sup> April MDCCLXIV  
died 1<sup>st</sup> March MDCCCII.

Elizabeth Lady Bradford Relict of the  
said Henry Lord Bradford and only daughter  
and Heiress of the late Rev<sup>d</sup> John Simpson  
of Stoke Hall in the County of Derby  
born xiv<sup>th</sup> November MDCCLXXXV  
died vi<sup>th</sup> March MDCCCVI.

Elizabeth Lucy Bridgeman daughter of  
George Augustus and Georgina Elizabeth  
Viscount and Viscountess Newport  
born the x<sup>th</sup> of June MDCCCXX  
died the iii<sup>d</sup> of January MDCCCXXII."

On the same wall, nearer the chancel, another tablet :

" In affectionate memory of  
Lucy Caroline  
and Charlotte Anne Bridgeman  
daughters of  
George Augustus Frederick Henry  
Earl of Bradford  
who were snatched away in the prime of life  
by the awful effects of fire  
This tablet is placed by their sorrowing father.  
Charlotte died the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 1858  
aged 31  
and Lucy the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December following  
aged 32."

On the south wall of the Bradford chapel the sitting figure of  
a weeping female, holding in her hands a medallion with a man's  
head in relief upon it, with the following inscription underneath :

"Sacred to the Memory of  
The Right Honourable HENRY LORD BRADFORD.  
He was a good Christian, an affectionate Husband,  
a tender Father, a kind Master, and a sincere Friend.  
Died the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, 1800, aged 74.  
This Monument is erected by his Widow  
ELIZABETH Lady BRADFORD,  
in testimony of her grateful affection."

Next to it is a large and beautifully carved monument, the work  
of Peter Hollins, representing a female figure reclining with hands





clasped, and above it another figure, with similar features, being borne upward by two angels. Below is the following inscription :

“ In a vault beneath the chancel of this church  
are deposited the mortal remains of  
Georgina Elizabeth Countess of Bradford  
who was born August the 20<sup>th</sup> 1790 married March the 5<sup>th</sup> 1818 and died  
October the 12<sup>th</sup> 1842  
after an illness of only fourteen days at Norwood in Surrey  
after she had long been anxiously watching over the sick couch of a beloved  
daughter.  
This monument is erected by her deeply sorrowing husband  
as a tribute of grateful affection  
to the purest the most affectionate and gentlest of wives  
the most devoted and tenderest of mothers.  
*‘ De qua nullum recepit dolorem nisi mastissimè ejus mortis.’*”

It is also designed to record his paternal love  
for the dead child above referred to  
Georgina Elizabeth Bridgeman  
interred in the same vault  
who died at Brighton July the 4<sup>th</sup> 1843 aged 18 years  
after a long protracted illness  
the last months of which were of unusually severe suffering  
borne with a patience and pious resignation to the will of God  
a simplicity and purity of faith and trust in the Saviour  
seldom equalled perhaps never surpassed.”

On the same wall, still nearer to the east end of the chapel, a smaller tablet, supported by a cherub holding a wreath and trailing torch, with these words inscribed :

“ In pious and affectionate memory  
of his beloved parents  
Orlando Bridgeman Earl of Bradford  
in Shropshire Viscount Newport and Baron Bradford  
who deceased at Weston September the 7<sup>th</sup> 1825  
aged 63 years  
and is interred in the vault beneath the chancel  
and Lucy Elizabeth his wife  
eldest daughter of George Byng fourth Viscount Torrington  
who died in London September the 20<sup>th</sup> 1844  
in her 78th year  
and whose mortal remains are deposited  
in the same sepulchre beside those of her husband  
their eldest son and heir  
caused this cenotaph to be erected.”



And immediately above it another with this inscription :

"In Memory  
of  
George Augustus Frederick Henry  
EARL of BRADFORD  
who was born October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1789  
and died  
Honored and Lamented  
in the 76<sup>th</sup> Year of his Age  
March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1865."

Below the inscription is carved an earl's coronet and the arms (un-coloured) of Bridgeman, impaling : (1) in chief, a lion rampant between two mullets, and a chief (Moncreiffe), and (2) in base, between three bears' heads coupéd, muzzled, a chevron charged with a roebuck's head erased between two hands holding daggers (Mackay).

Immediately below the east window of the chapel is another beautifully carved monument of a female figure reclining, with two angels kneeling, the one at the head of the couch holding a harp, and the other at the foot with hands folded in prayer; and under it :

"This marble, in memory of  
Selina Louisa, Countess of Bradford,  
is placed by her husband, after 50 years of happy union  
in humble hope of an undivided immortality, 1897."

The window above contains some fine modern stained glass by Kemp, representing the Adoration of the Shepherds, and inscribed beneath :

"In thankfulness to God for the beloved memory of Selina Louisa,  
Countess of Bradford, her two daughters dedicate this window.  
Nov. 25, mdcccxciv."

On the west wall of the chapel are two brass tablets, the only monuments of that material in the church, all the others being of marble. On the upper one, beneath a floriated cross with the Holy Dove on a medallion in the centre and the monogram "G.Ö.M.B." at the foot, are the words "Thy will be done," and the following inscription :

"To the beloved memory of  
GERALD ORLANDO MANNERS BRIDGEMAN  
3<sup>rd</sup> son of  
Orlando George Charles & Selina Louisa  
Earl & Countess of Bradford.  
Born Nov<sup>ber</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1847. Died April 14<sup>th</sup> 1870."



On the lower one is a shield with the arms of Bridgeman, followed by this inscription :

“ In affectionate memory of  
 ROWLAND ALEXANDER  
 SOMERSET BRIDGEMAN,  
 Fourth Son of  
 Orlando George Charles & Selina Louisa  
 Viscount and Viscountess Newport.  
 Born February the 12<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1852.  
 Died July the 2<sup>nd</sup> A.D. 1864 at Melton  
 Mowbray, where his remains lie interred.”

The only other sepulchral monuments inside the church are two small tablets on the north wall of the tower, one being inscribed :

“ MDCLXXX  
 Near this place was buried  
 HONORA EDGEWORTH,  
 aged 28 years.  
 Her Manners, Wisdom, and Virtue,  
 gained Admiration and Esteem,  
 without exciting  
 Envy.”

And the other :

“ Sacred to the memory  
 of Gustavus Yonge Esq.  
 Surgeon, late of Shiffnal  
 Shropshire  
 Born July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1723  
 Died July 16<sup>th</sup> 1804.”

Round the church, just below the roof, are twelve shields (modern) six on each side; the first bearing the royal arms, the second those of the restorer of the church, the next seven those of the various families who were successively lords of Weston, and the last three those of the archbishop of the province, the rector of the parish, and the bishop of the diocese, at the time of the last restoration. Beginning with that nearest to the east on the south side, they are as follows :

1. Quarterly: 1st and 4th England; 2nd Scotland; 3rd Ireland.
2. Quarterly: 1st Bridgeman; 2nd Newport; 3rd Wilbraham; 4th Mytton; impaling quarterly: 1st and 4th quarterly per fess indented *arg.* and *sa.*, in the 1st and 4th quarters a bugle-horn of the last garnished *or* (Forester); 2nd and 3rd *az.* a fess nebulée between three crescents, two and one, *erm.* (Weld).
3. Weston.
4. Peshale, impaling Weston.





5. Mytton, impaling Peshale.
6. Harpesfield, on an escutcheon of pretence Mytton.
7. Wilbraham, impaling Mytton.
8. Newport, impaling Wilbraham.
9. Bridgeman, impaling Newport.
10. See of Canterbury, impaling quarterly: 1st and 4th *arg.* a saltire and chief engrailed *gu.* (Tait); 2nd and 3rd *arg.* two ravens suspended by the neck from one arrow *ppr.* (Murdoch).
11. Bridgeman, impaling *arg.* on a fess *sa.* three mullets *or* (Clive).
12. See of Lichfield, impaling *arg.* within a bordure engrailed *gu.* on a bend cottised *sa.* three annulets *or* (Selwyn).

The Parochial Registers date from the year 1654; and the first volume commences: "1654. The Register Booke of Weston under Lizard according to an Acte of parliament sett forth the 24th of June for the registringe of Mariage Births & Burialls.—Richard Lewis Esq. Register of the parish and chosen by the parish.—This booke was bought by Willm Hand<sup>1</sup> when churchwarden." The earliest entry, which, it will be observed, relates to a period a little earlier than the actual purchase of the book, is as follows: "Richard Lewis, the sonn of Richard Lewis and of Margaret his wife was Borne the 8th day of January and was Baptized the 19th in the yeare 1652."

In the Inventory of Church goods &c. in the Hundred of Cuttlestone in the county of Stafford, taken "the thyrd day of October in the Syxte yere of the Raygne of o<sup>r</sup> Souerēgn Lorde Kynge Edward the Syxt" (1552), and preserved at the Public Record Office in London, the list of those found at Weston runs as follows: "fyrste one Challes of Sylu' w<sup>t</sup> a paten, iij belles, one Cope of blew Sylke, one Surples, one Crosse of Maslynn,<sup>2</sup> ij Towelles, one Alter clothe, one Crosse Clothe, one corporas, ij vestements of Sylke one whyte the other Redd. M<sup>d</sup> that the p<sup>r</sup>ishens of Weston do say that the [they] have solde one Sensor of brasse for x<sup>d</sup>. & also the say upon ther othes that the Vestement, Sacrynge bell, & ij Candelstykes of brasse, mensioned in the olde Inventorye, the neu' [never] knewe what was be come of them."

<sup>1</sup> Direct descendants of this man are still residing on the estate, one of them, also named William Hand, now living at Blymhill Common, having served as one of the gamekeepers to the 2nd Earl of Bradford.

<sup>2</sup> *Mastynn*, or *maselin*, was a mixed metal resembling brass.



About the Communion plate now in existence there is nothing especially remarkable. It consists of a silver chalice, a silver paten, two pewter flagons, a large pewter alms-dish, and two smaller pewter patens. All these, with the exception of the silver paten, appear to have been given by Dame Elizabeth Wilbraham; for on all the pewter vessels are engraved, on a lozenge, the arms of Wilbraham impaling Mytton; the silver chalice has the Wilbraham arms, also on a lozenge, with those of Mytton on an escutcheon of pretence, and bears this inscription: "The gift of Dame Elizabeth Wilbraham to the Parish Church of Weston under Lyziard Anno Dom: 1693." The silver paten is of later date, and has the following inscriptions underneath: "The Gift of an old Inhabitant of Weston under Lizard, for the use of the Altar, as a token of gratitude to the all wise Omnipotent, who has brought him to a good old Age, with perfect good Will to all the Inhabitants." "' No longer seek his merits to disclose, Nor draw his frailties from their dread abode.' This Salver was given by Mr. John Hall, many years the faithful and truly upright Steward of Henry, Lord Bradford. He died Jan<sup>y</sup>. 18. 1820, deservedly respected, belov'd, and regretted by all to whom he was known. George Bridgeman, Rector."

In the year 1291 the Church of Weston, in the Deanery of Lappeley and Tresel, was valued at £6. 13s. 4d.<sup>1</sup>

In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1534-5<sup>2</sup> the name of "Rog'us Jenyns" is given as Rector of Weston.

	£	s.	d.
He has a parsonage, with all lands, worth annually	40	0	
And in tithes of grain each year ... ..	40	0	
And in wool and lambs, altogether ... ..	26	8	
And in hemp and flax and other small tithes ...	13	4	
And in the Easter book [ <i>i.e.</i> , Easter offerings], altogether ... ..	20	0	
Total	7	0	0
Out of this he asks for an allowance for procurations paid annually to Nicholas Hethe, Archdeacon of Stafford ... ..	10	4	
And to Roland, Bishop of Chester, every third year for synodals ... ..	2	0	
And so there remains, nett ... ..	6	7	8

<sup>1</sup> Pope Nic. Tax. fo. 338 (Record ed., p. 243).

<sup>2</sup> Record ed., Vol. III, p. 103.



In the custody of the Rector of Weston there is a Terrier of the Glebe<sup>1</sup> dated 1782, which informs us:

“There is a Parsonage house, Brewhouse, 2 Barns, 2 Cowhouses, 1 stable, 1 Carthouse, 1 Pig Stye.

The Garden & Orchard contain one Acre, one Rood, & thirty perches. The yard 2A. 3R. 30p.<sup>2</sup> Near Wergs 2. 3. 27. Middle yard 3. 3. 36. Selman's Croft 5. 0. 3. Meddins yard 2. 2. 36. Lewis' yard 4. 0. 29. Ames 5. 0. 23. South Bradshaw 4. 3. 32. North Bradshaw 6. 2. 7. West Bradshaw 2. 3. 2. Twelve Ridges 5. 3. 7. Near Wadlands 5. 2. 38. Wadland next the road 3. 0. 29. Wadland next the meadow 2. 2. 9. Wadland meadow 4. 3. 13. Sparkley 4. 3. 10. Stocking meadow 6. 1. 7.

In lieu of the inclosed lands of the Common were appropriated to the Glebe July 11, 1781, Bray's Sparkley 6. 2. 31. Alcock's Sparkley 5. 0. 0.

Lady Wilbraham bequeath'd five pounds forever, payable yearly to keep the Church & Chancel in good repair.

To the Church belong a large Silver chalice 2 Flaggons 1 Dish 2 Salvers of best pewter. the Communion Table Cloth & napkins have always been found by the Family at Weston Hall.

The fees are for publishing Bans 1s. Marriage by Banns 1s. 6d. Marriage by Licence 3s. Burying 6d. Registering 6d. Churching 6d. Strangers pay double fees.

Easter Dues. for a Master of a Family 3d. man & wife 3d. all other persons above 16 years 2d. each. for house & garden 2d. Cow & Calf 2d. Colt 4[d]. Stall of Bees 1d. for a Cuck 2 Eggs. a hen 1. a Drake 2. Duck 1.

Wooll fleeces, Lambs, Pigs, Geese titheable at the 7th. for 17 2 due.

Most of the farms have paid a small modus for hay from 1s. to 4d. each farm. Weston Hall ancient Desmesne pays 4s. The Grinding Corn Mill pays yearly 10 shillings. All articles of grain titheable at the tenth, but the hard Corn when bound & put up, at the Eleventh. The hay modus not above 1s. 6d. p<sup>r</sup> Farm.

Rice Williams Rector  
Sam<sup>l</sup>. Aintree Church Warden.”

<sup>1</sup> The Glebe here described is not the original glebe, as to which considerable changes have from time to time taken place (see *post*, pp. 329, 330, 338, 339, 342, 344).

<sup>2</sup> (In a note) “Far Wergs omitted above . . . . , 4A. 1R. 5p.”





At the back is written:—

“ Hay modus pay'd by the Farms 1782.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Richards mill farm <sup>1</sup> ... ..	0	6	
Mr. Forster <sup>2</sup> ... ..	0	8	
Mr. Altree <sup>3</sup> ... ..	0	8	
Mr. Blakemore <sup>4</sup> ... ..	0	8	
Mr. Yonge <sup>5</sup> ... ..	1	0	
Mrs. Alcock <sup>6</sup> ... ..	1	0	
Mr. Hand <sup>7</sup> ... ..	1	0	
Mr. Wm. Alcock <sup>8</sup> ... ..	0	4	
	5		10

In 1658 the Rectory was much nearer the church than it is now, standing almost opposite the back door of the Hall and not far from the present road; the Rectory grounds apparently extended over a portion of what is now the Town Pool, and included part of the Hall stable-yard and adjacent farm buildings. Shortly before the year 1690 an exchange was effected between the parson and the patron, and the house at the lower end of the Town Pool, till recently occupied by the curate, but at that time one of the farm-houses on the estate, was made the parsonage. In the following century another exchange was effected, and a farm-house on the Watling Street road (on the site of the greenhouse in the present Rectory garden) in its turn became the parsonage. Shortly after the appointment of the Hon. and Rev. John Bridgeman to the benefice, this house was pulled down, and a much larger and more commodious Rectory was built about a hundred yards further back from the road, the work being completed in 1860.

Before the time of Sir Thomas and Lady Wilbraham the Rector of Weston's glebe consisted of the site of the Rectory, the

<sup>1</sup> This is now the Woodlands Farm, and is occupied by Mr. Thomas Shaw.

<sup>2</sup> Now the Weston Park Farm, occupied by Mr. John E. Moreton.

<sup>3</sup> Now Weston Bank, the residence of G. R. Carter Esq., the Earl of Bradford's agent.

<sup>4</sup> Possibly one of the Beighterton Farms, now no longer existing.

<sup>5</sup> Possibly another of the Beighterton Farms, now no longer existing.

<sup>6</sup> One of the Beighterton Farms, probably the one now existing and occupied by Mr. Edward Rogers.

<sup>7</sup> The Lodge (or Warren) Farm, now occupied by Mr. Frederick Medicott.

<sup>8</sup> The Lower Beighterton Farm, now occupied by Mr. John Medicott.



Churchyard, three fields in the neighbourhood of the Mill Pool, a field on the north side of the Watling Street road opposite the present Blymhill Lodge, and another field near it, besides about fifteen acres of arable land in the Common or Town Fields. After the exchange with Sir Thomas Wilbraham referred to in the preceding paragraph the site of the new parsonage comprised 2A. 1R. 11P.; and either at that time or subsequently the rector appears to have acquired four small fields containing a little over nine acres, probably in exchange for the two fields to the north of the Watling Street. On the partition of the Town Fields the rector was allotted 2A. 2R. 39P. in the Birch Field adjoining the nine acres just mentioned. Before the date of the terrier of 1782 the whole of the glebe, with the exception of the churchyard, had been already exchanged with the lord of the manor for land on the north side of the Watling Street. Another small exchange was effected with the Earl of Bradford in 1873; and the present acreage of the glebe, including the house, outbuildings and garden, is 94 acres, 1 rood, and 20 perches.

The Tithe was commuted in 1838 at £355 4s. 2d.

So far as we are aware, there is no drawing, print, or even description in existence of the old Hall at Weston before its rebuilding by Sir Thomas and Lady Wilbraham.<sup>1</sup> The ancient manor-house inhabited by the Westons seems to have been in a ruinous condition in 1358,<sup>2</sup> and, if we may so understand the mention of the *site* of the manor in the deed of exchange between Sir Adam de Peshale and John Giffard, to have altogether disappeared by 1380.<sup>3</sup> The only visible portion of the present house which remains to show what it was before Lady Wilbraham's time is the western wall of the kitchen, which faces the churchyard, and is fully three feet thick; but in the course of the alterations effected this year (1899) by the present Earl of Bradford a considerable amount of old masonry was discovered in different places,<sup>4</sup> the most interesting fragment of which was a large stone built into

<sup>1</sup> The earliest known print of Weston Hall is that engraved for Shaw's "History of Staffordshire" in 1801.

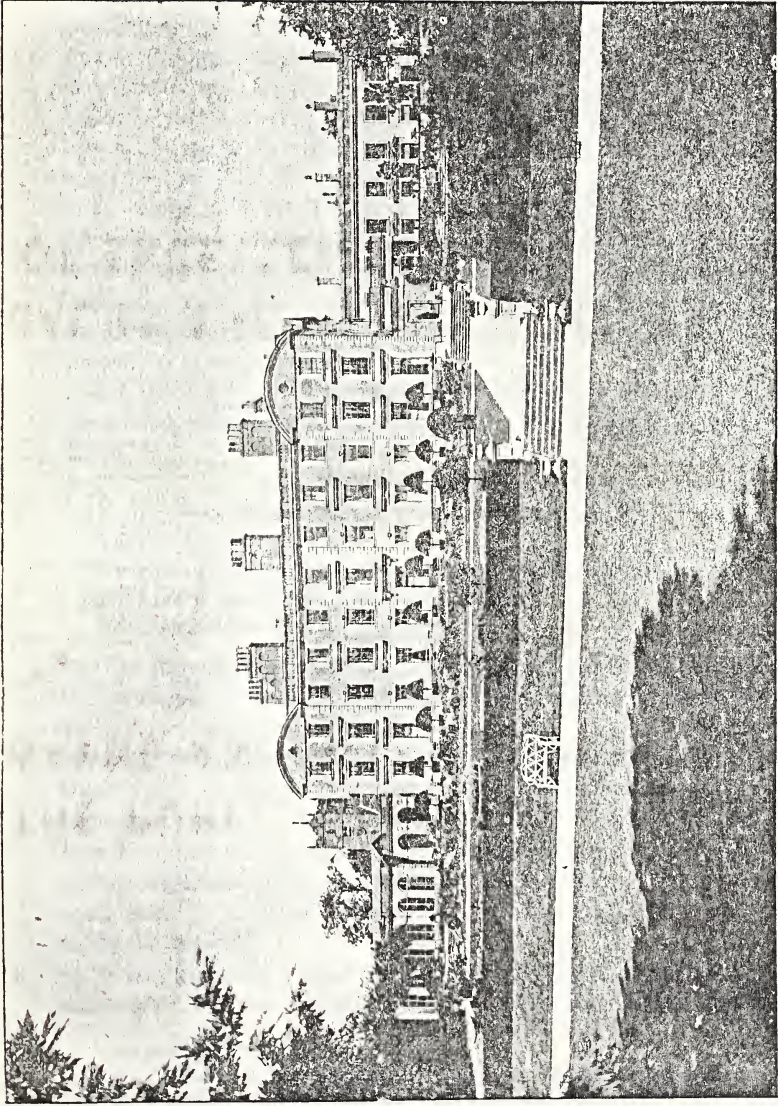
<sup>2</sup> See *ante*, pp. 53, 54.

<sup>3</sup> See *ante*, p. 60.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Hope, Lord Bradford's head gardener, who has been uninterruptedly employed at Weston since 1865, informs us that in laying out the flower garden on the south side of the Hall he came across the foundations of what were apparently outbuildings, and that he found in one place a quantity of coal, showing where the coal yard must once have been.







Weston Hall from the South.





the chimney at the back of the breakfast-room, which was probably once an outside wall; on this stone is carved in relief a shield with two letters upon it, the second of which is clearly M, and the first, which has been partially defaced, is apparently either C or G, but may possibly be E; if the latter, the erection of this part of the building may be ascribed to one of the two lords of Weston who bore the name of Edward Mytton, and most probably to the earlier one (originally Edward Harpesfield), who succeeded to the estate in the reign of Henry VIII; if the letter is really C, it must have been the work of his grandmother Constance Mytton, who seems to have had a life interest in the manor of Weston after her husband's death;<sup>1</sup> in either case it would date from about the middle of the 16th century. The stone has now been put up in one of the passages inside the house.

In the copy of "Palladio's Architecture" at Weston already mentioned Dame Elizabeth Wilbraham has made the following MS. note:

"For Building Weston House, 1671.

Sa<sup>m</sup>: Grice agreed to gett y<sup>e</sup> stone att y<sup>e</sup> Knole for 18<sup>d</sup> a yard.

To hew for 1<sup>s</sup> a yard.

To lay it being carried w<sup>th</sup>in 40 yards distance 1<sup>s</sup> per yard.

And for y<sup>e</sup> inside brick worke 6<sup>d</sup> a yard.

For foundation worke 18<sup>d</sup> a yard."

The present appearance of the Hall may best be gathered from the various views of it inserted in this volume. Though its successive owners have made considerable alterations, chiefly internal,<sup>2</sup> from time to time, the only important additions to it since its rebuilding more than two hundred years ago have been the erection by Orlando G. C., 3rd Earl of Bradford, shortly after his succession to the estate, of a wing on the eastern side and of a large orangery on the west, the latter being connected by a stone colonnade both with the Hall itself and with the church.

There has been a Deer Park at Weston from very ancient times, although it did not originally extend to the gates of the Hall as is

<sup>1</sup> See *ante*, pp. 128, 129.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. A. Davidson, formerly head gardener and land steward at Weston, who died in December 1867 after having worked on the estate for nearly 50 years, recollected building operations going on at the northern part of the west front of the Hall when he first came there; this would be the greater portion of the present façade including the front part of what has since been converted into the dining-room.



now the case, the land immediately round the house being used according to the prevailing custom for agricultural purposes; a considerable part of the present park however can never, for many centuries at least, have been under the plough. In 1658 (as is shown by an old estate map of that date) and down to Sir Henry Bridgeman's time there were two parks, the Upper and the Lower; the former was then brought under cultivation, and forms what is now known as the Weston Park Farm; the latter, with the exception of the Old Park Pool and a piece of land adjoining it, is still part of the park, and extended as far as the Cowhey wood on the west and the head-keeper's house on the north, and included the adjacent clump of trees, surrounded by an ancient moat, on which a house was standing in 1658. The present park consists of nearly a thousand acres; it was considerably enlarged on the north and west sides by Sir Henry Bridgeman, and large additions have since been made to it on the south both by George A. F. H., 2nd Earl of Bradford, in 1857, after his purchase of the Tong estate, and by Orlando G. C., 3rd Earl, in 1867; these latter portions, which include Tong Knoll, are in the parish of Tong and county of Salop, a stone on the northern slope of the rising ground marking the division between the two shires. Weston Park is famous for its oaks<sup>1</sup>; and on the top of the Knoll a stone tower, which was built by the 3rd Earl of Bradford in 1883, is a conspicuous landmark for a long distance round.

The map of 1658 shows the approach to the Hall by a road branching off from the Watling Street at the top of the hill, following the line of what is now the Shrewsbury Walk, and joining the present road at the corner of the Town Pool; opposite the house lately occupied by the curate was a lodge and gate, from which the drive proceeded southwards skirting a pool which then existed in the hollow below the flower garden, where it turned eastwards and led to a gateway opposite the south front of the Hall.<sup>2</sup> Between the carriage drive and the house were gardens; and a dove-house once stood where there is now a flight of steps a little way below the fountain.

<sup>1</sup> See note as to measurements of trees on p. 336.

<sup>2</sup> Before the alterations made by the 3rd Earl of Bradford (see pp. 289-290) the drive followed a tolerably direct course from the present Shrewsbury Lodge to the hall door, then on the south side of the house, the lawn being separated from the park by an iron railing only, which ran nearer to the Hall than either the old or the existing boundary.



In the pleasure-grounds to the east of the Hall stands a classic structure, erected by Sir Henry Bridgeman in the latter half of the eighteenth century, and usually known as the Temple. An accurate description of this building as it appeared when just completed is given in a large illustrated folio volume compiled by the architect who designed it<sup>1</sup>; it may be interesting to reproduce his description in full: "Plate 68 contains the plan of a temple dedicated to the goddess Diana, erected upon elevated ground in this [Weston] park. The ovalar room, marked *a*, faces the south, and was originally intended for a green-house, and consequently to be inclosed with glass; the circular room in the centre of the north front, marked *b*, is used as a tea room; the octagon room, marked *c*, is used for music; and the opposite room, marked *d*, is the habitation of the dairy woman. Underneath these rooms are apartments arched with stone, and used as dairies and for other purposes appertaining thereto. Over the dairy woman's room is contrived within the roof a sleeping room, and over the circular room is an exceedingly good bed chamber.—Plate 69 exhibits the principal front, which (as has been said before) was intended to have been sashed when this plate was engraved; but the sashes are now taken down, and the temple is finished open.<sup>2</sup>—Plate 70 shows the north front of this temple.—Plate 71 shows a section of the temple from north to south. The situation of this temple is remarkably beautiful; the approach to it from the house is by a gentle ascent, delightfully planted with shrubs, accompanied with lofty oaks.<sup>3</sup> Having gained the ascent towards the south, you command a pleasing view of the park, terminated on the left with fine woods, and Tong Knoll. The descent of the Knoll, on the right

<sup>1</sup> "Plans, Elevations, and Sections, of Noblemen and Gentlemen's Houses, &c., by James Paine, Architect," London, 1783, Vol. II, pp. 22, 23.

<sup>2</sup> The original design was subsequently carried out, and it has now for many years been completely enclosed with glass, and is used for orange-trees and flowering shrubs.

<sup>3</sup> Close to one of the largest of these oaks, which stands in an open glade to the north of the Temple Walk, a quantity of "clinkers" have been from time to time turned up by the spade, suggesting that this was once the site of the estate blacksmith's forge, the memory of which is preserved in the name of the adjoining field, the "Forge Croft." But in 1658 this field was known as the "White Pitt Lessow," and the enclosure then called the "Forge Croft" was that lying immediately to the west of it, including part of the present kitchen garden, and on this latter enclosure close to the Watling Street road there was a building then standing; this building was probably the original forge, and the one above-mentioned may perhaps have been afterwards substituted for it.





hand side, opens a distant and picturesque country, terminated by the Clee Hills; the right hand side of this valley is bounded by the famous mountain called the Reeking. The north front is pleasingly situated by the side of a limpid small stream, winding round, and concealed in plantations of fine shrubs, intermixed with lofty oaks; over which, to the west, is a rural bridge suitable to the stillness of the situation; and at a small distance, to the east, is erected a stone bridge over the same stream leading to the park; a plate of which it given in its proper place.<sup>1</sup> This building is composed of a beautiful coloured stone, raised within the park. Every part of the workmanship of this temple is well performed; the sides and ceiling of the tea room are pannelled and filled with paintings expressive of passages in the history of the fabulous Goddess to whom the building is dedicated. They are the performance of an ingenious artist, Signior Columbo." The same work gives the following short description of the stone bridge alluded to above: "Plate 86 shows a bridge built across a small stream at the entrance into Weston Park in Staffordshire, the seat and residence of Sir Henry Bridgeman, Bart. This bridge is built of an exceeding good stone raised in the Park; the colour of the stone has a pale but pleasing tinge of verdant hue, spotted with the colour of a bright warm oker, which greatly aids the picturesque effect of the bridge."<sup>2</sup>

Not far from the Temple, beyond the stone bridge, and almost hidden by the surrounding plantation, is a smaller rustic building, with a little garden attached, which bears the name of the Cottage. From the large number of bricks (some of them unburnt and fresh from the mould, and precisely similar to those of which the stables and barns at the Hall are built) which have come to light when the surface of the adjacent ground has been disturbed, it may be conjectured that this was once the site of the brick-yard,<sup>3</sup> the older rooms in the cottage probably serving as the brickmaker's dwelling; the larger room to the south was most likely added, and the whole transformed to its present condition, some time in the 18th or early in the 19th century.

<sup>1</sup> This stream, between the two bridges, has long been dammed up, and forms what is now known as the Temple Pool, from which a supply of water is conveyed to the Hall. On one of the stones of the sunk fence, just above the place where the pipes conducting the water enter the park from the shrubbery, are cut the figures "1795"; so that the making of the pool can not have been later than that date.

<sup>2</sup> Paine's Plans, Elevations, &c., Vol. II, p. 30.

<sup>3</sup> This conjecture is confirmed by the fact that in an old map the spot in question is named "Brickiln-hole."



On the other side of the Hall, in the part of the grounds now called the Shrewsbury Walk, there is a small cave, which some time in the 18th century was the refuge of a well-known mendicant of the name of Penderel, who was descended from the Penderels of Hubbal Grange and Boscobel; after many years the death of a relative put him into possession of a share of the pension settled by King Charles II upon the Penderel family as a reward for their loyal and faithful services, and with his change of fortune he quitted his rude shelter at Weston, which however is still known as "Penderel's Cave." A long account in doggerel rhyme of the story of this Penderel was composed by Mr. John Hall, the old steward at Weston Hall, in 1812, and printed; a framed copy of which now hangs up inside the cave.

The picturesque village of Weston, through which the old Roman road called the Watling Street runs, lies close to the Hall, one of its principal features being the Almshouses, containing accommodation for four deserving old people, and built by Selina Countess of Bradford in 1874. Immediately below it extends the Cemetery, which has been in use since the church-yard was closed at the end of 1866; the little cemetery chapel, beneath which rest the bodies of the last Earl and Countess of Bradford, was erected by them in 1870 in memory of their third son, the Hon. Gerald Bridgeman, who died that year, and also lies buried there.

A village School has existed at Weston for a considerable time; the present building, which is the property of the Earl of Bradford, was opened in 1873.

The Weston Charities are neither numerous nor extensive. Besides the rent charge given by Sir Thomas Wilbraham for apprenticing poor children of the parishes of Weston and Blynhill (referred to on p. 145), and the annual sum left by his widow Dame Elizabeth Wilbraham in 1704 for the repair of the church and charged on lands at Little Onn, now the property of Miss Ashton of Little Onn Hall, the only others are a sum of £5 given by a Mr. Goodwin, at what date is not known, and a sum of £100 given by Mr. James Cox (or Cocks) in 1750, both for the poor of Weston parish not in receipt of parochial relief, the interest on which two sums amounts to five guineas *per annum*.

The total acreage of the parish of Weston, as given by the last Ordnance Survey, is 2,437A. 3R. 15P.; the present (1899) gross



estimated value for rateable purposes is £3,829 12s. 4d.; and the population, according to the census of 1891, was 316.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In 1676 the adult population of the parish of Weston (*i.e.* those over 16 years of age) was 94. This we gather from a valuable and unique MS., preserved in the William Salt Library at Stafford, entitled "An Account of the Province of Canterbury, A<sup>o</sup>. 1676"; a description of this MS. is given in Vol. I (2nd Series) of the Transactions of the Shropshire Archæological Society, page 75 &c.; it is a survey of the Southern Province in the above-mentioned year, arranged under Dioceses, Counties, and Deaneries, and gives the number of "Conformists, Papists, and NonConformists" in each parish. Unfortunately the Staffordshire portion is very incomplete; but it will be interesting to compare the numbers for Weston with those for some of the neighbouring parishes:—

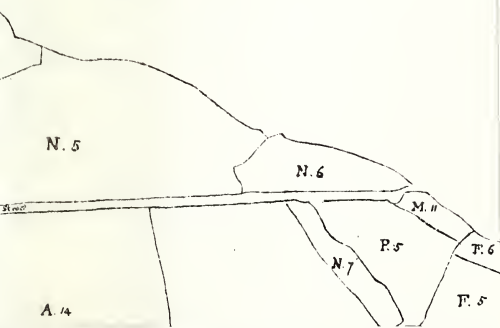
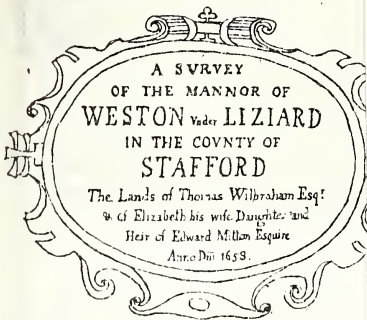
Weston:	Conformists	94,	NonConformists	0,	Papists	0.
Blymhill:	Conformists	147,	NonConformists	0,	Papists	2.
Sheriff Hales:	Conformists	312,	NonConformists	2,	Papists	0.
Church Eaton:	Conformists	302,	NonConformists	0,	Papists	13.
Tonge:	Conformists	156,	NonConformists	0,	Papists	13.
Sliffnall:	Conformists	960,	NonConformists	14,	Papists	24.

For the following measurements of some of the trees on the Weston estate we are indebted to Mr. George Griffiths's "History of Tong" (p. 189):—

	Girth at 1 ft.		Girth at 4 ft.		Date measured.
In Weston parish.	ft.	in.	ft.	in.	
Great oak in Weston Park	31	2	22	9	Nov. 1884.
Large oak near Weston Hall stables	27	0	26	6	" (Including ivy.)
Oriental plane on Weston Hall lawn	27	3	19	2	" (Height in 1890, 75 ft.; spread of branches, 100 ft.)
Lime (N.) near Penderel's Cave....	23	6	18	7	"
Lime (S.) " " " "....	23	10	17	5	"
Oak in Forge Croft	22	4	20	0	"
Oak near Black Firs Clump	25	0	20	1	"
In Blymhill parish.					
Oak at Brockhurst	24	0	24	3	"
In Tong parish.					
White oak	18	2	14	1	"







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A SURVEY  
OF THE MANNOR OF  
**WESTON** sub LIZIARD  
IN THE COUNTY OF  
**STAFFORD**  
The Lands of Thomas Willsham Esq<sup>r</sup>  
& of Elizabeth his w<sup>ife</sup> Daughters and  
Heirs of Edward Willsham Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Nov. 16. 1725



WESTON HEATH

Weston Hill

Weston Hill

The 2nd Hill

THE UPPER PARKE

THE LOWER PARKE



Scale 1/10000  
By which 1 inch  
represents 1000 yds  
or 1/2 mile





## APPENDIX.

SINCE the above pages were in type there has been discovered at the Weston estate office an old folio volume containing a survey of lands in Weston, Blymhill, Little Onn and Newton during the lifetime of Sir Thomas and Lady Wilbraham, as well as a rent-roll of all her Staffordshire estates. It is thought that this survey is of sufficient interest to warrant the reproduction in full of such part of it as relates to the manor of Weston. A comparison of the survey with the almost contemporaneous estate map of 1658 enables us to identify the sites of the various homesteads, which were all collected in the two hamlets of Weston and Beighterton, the farm lands belonging to them being intermixed and scattered over the parish :—

“ 1666.

A particular of the Demesnes Lands and Tenements within the Mannor of Weston under Lizard.

## The Demesnes.

A.	1.	The Scite of the Mannor house Gardens	A.	R.	P.
		Orchards Courts and Outyards contayning	8	1	0
	2.	The flatte ....	16	0	28
	3.	The New feild ....	29	3	10
	4.	Shoreley Meadowe....	6	0	36
	5.	The Mill w <sup>th</sup> the meadow & millpoole <sup>1</sup> ....	19	1	13
	6.	The lower Cowhey....	21	3	04 <sup>2</sup>
	7.	The upper Cowhey....	65	2	10
	8.	The Meadowes ....	45	1	09
	9.	The lower Parke ....	227	3	4
	10.	The upper Parke ....	259	1	6
	11.	The further horse Coppve ....	31	3	0
	12.	Long Bricke Kill leasowe ....	30	1	3
	13.	The Struttes ....	34	2	24
	14.	The Street Lessow ....	31	2	16
	15.	Ramas feild....	4	2	30
	16.	The nearer Horse Coppve ....	14	2	0

<sup>1</sup> Besides this pool and the two near the Hall already referred to, there were at Weston at this time two pools in the Lower Park (namely, the Old Park Pool, now just outside the wall, and another nearer to and to the east of the present Park Pool), a pool on Weston Heath, then known (as it is still) as the White Sitch, and another large pool at Picmoor (originally Pike Mere) adjoining the Watling Street road, now no longer in existence.

<sup>2</sup> After this and the preceding there is a note in somewhat later handwriting: “ Zacharie Twonley.”





	A.	R.	P.
17. The wood feild ....	44	2	0
18. The white pitt lessow ....	24	0	4
19. The fforge Crofte ....	7	3	18
20. The Sheepe pasture ....	60	0	25
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	983	2	0

Memorandum that the ancient demesne Lands within this Mannor is Tithe free paying two shillings p Ann to the Parson. But there are certaine pcells of Land now made demesne, part of w<sup>ch</sup> were purchased and part of them were of some decayed Tenem<sup>ts</sup>. and are titheable w<sup>ch</sup> are as followeth, vizt. :

Nu.		A.	R.	P.
2.	In the flatt ....	00	2	30 <sup>1</sup>
10.	In the upper parke a little pcell called Kendall pke and a large peice on the east side....	110	0	00
	....			
11.	In the further horse Coppye ....	12	0	00
12.	In the long Brick kill lessowe ....	16	0	00
14.	In the little Brick kill lessowe ....	09	3	20
17.	About a third pte of the woodfeild ....	14	3	00
13.	The Strutttes ....	31	2	34
14.	The Ramas feild ....	04	2	30
16.	The nearer horse Coppie ....	14	2	00
18.	The white pitt Lessowe ....	24	0	04
3.	The New feild ....	29	3	10
20.	The Sheepe pasture ....	60	0	25
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	The totall is about ....	322	0	33

The Heath Bruch in William Hands tenure and a flatt in the Wind Mill feild called the 10 lands are ancient Demesne and tithe free.

B.	Gleab land.	A.	R.	P.
1.	The Parsonage house and Backside ....	1	1	31
2.	The Church yard ....	0	1	27
3.	The Seruer ....	3	3	0
4.	Doddenhill Close ....	1	3	0
5.	The parsons Moore ....	4	2	15
6.	Allman's hill ....	7	1	37
7.	Sparkeleyes meadowe ....	1	3	18
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Arable Lands in the Co <sup>m</sup> on ffeildes ....	21	1	8
		14	3	9
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	The totall ....	36	0	17

<sup>1</sup> Added in later handwriting: "Which now is inclosed & enjoyed by y<sup>e</sup> parson upon exchange for a piece in the new field."



C. Francis Tarvor's freehold bought of William Alcocke.				acre	rood	perch
1.	His homested <sup>1</sup>	....	....	1	0	4
2.	The Broomy Piroe....	....	....	2	2	25
3.	The Middle Piroe ....	....	....	2	2	13
4.	The Upper Piroe ....	....	....	3	1	29
5.	The three Buttes ....	....	....	0	1	31
6.	The fowle lake Close ....	....	....	2	0	28
7.	Stafford pittes ....	....	....	4	2	13
				16	3	23
Arable Land in the Common feilds ....				14	3	16
The total ....				31	2	39
D. Mr. Mortons Wheate Corner freehold ....				28	0	20
E. James Onions house and Backsid <sup>2</sup> freehold....				0	2	13
Mr. Kelsall freehold in Biterton lower feild				1	2	34

## F. Thomas Cotton's Tenement for lues.

1.	The house and homested <sup>3</sup> ....	....	....	1	3	0 <sup>4</sup>
2.	The Broomy leys ....	....	....	12	0	13 <sup>5</sup>
3.	Hunger Hill ....	....	....	4	0	36
4.	The Werges....	....	....	2	2	22 <sup>6</sup>
5.	Blackmore Riddings ....	....	....	4	1	17
6.	Blackmore Riddings Meadow ....	....	....	1	0	22
7.	The Span lessow ....	....	....	1	0	0 <sup>7</sup>
8.	The Hatch lessow ....	....	....	4	0	10 <sup>8</sup>
9.	The Laund ....	....	....	29	1	3 <sup>9</sup>
				60	2	3
Arable land in the Common feilds ....				17	2	33 <sup>10</sup>
The total ....				78	0	36

<sup>1</sup> The site of the present Poultry House.<sup>2</sup> Apparently near the present Lodge Farm.<sup>3</sup> Afterwards the Rectory; now again the property of the lord of the manor and till lately occupied by the curate.<sup>4</sup> Added in later handwriting: "Exchanged."<sup>5</sup> Added later: "T. Medins."<sup>6</sup> Added later to this and the preceding: "H. Babb."<sup>7</sup> Added later to this and the two preceding: "Geo. Wells."<sup>8</sup> Added later: "Wid. Alltree."<sup>9</sup> Added later: "E. Cartwright."<sup>10</sup> Added later: "Widd. Tarvar."



## G. William Hand's Tenement for lites.

	A.	R.	P.
1. The house & homested <sup>1</sup> ....	5	3	22
2. The Meadow ....	3	1	32
3. The Kitchen lessow ....	3	2	25
4. The Shutt lessow ....	8	2	2
5. The Greet hill ....	5	2	24
6. Stafford pittes ....	3	0	9
7. The Paddocke ....	1	2	10
8. The Heath Bruche ....	7	1	2
9. The Heath Bruche lately Demesne ....	16	2	24
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Arable land in the Common feilds ....	10	1	21
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
The total ....	66	0	11

## H. Henry Cartwright's tenement for lites.

1. The house & homested <sup>2</sup> ....	3	1	18
2. The Crofte ....	1	0	21
3. The Paddocke ....	1	1	10
4. The Coat lessow ....	5	2	23
5. The Corner lessow ....	4	2	12
6. The hatch lessow ....	4	2	25
7. The Brooke furlong ....	3	3	21
8. The Goose Crew ....	0	1	22
9. The rose poole ....	4	0	6
10. The new Peece ....	2	3	2
11. The nine Landes ....	2	0	24
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Arable land in the Common feilds ....	8	2	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
The total ....	42	1	36

I. Widdowe Paddyes Tenem<sup>t</sup>. for 21 yeares beginning Lady day 1653.

1. The house and Backside <sup>3</sup> ....	11	00	11
2. The little Crofte ....	00	03	20
3. The Paddocke ....	03	00	31
4. The Cross Lane Leasowe ....	01	02	13
5. The Coate Leasowe ....	07	02	37
6. The heath Bruch ....	16	01	26

<sup>1</sup> To the south of the Beighterton cottages, and now no longer existing.<sup>2</sup> Now the Beighterton cottages and farm-yard.

Now the Beighterton Farm, occupied by Mr. Edward Rogers.





	A.	R.	P.
7. The one Butt ....	00	02	20
8. The good Ale pitts ....	08	00	15
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Arable Land in the Comon feilds ....	49	02	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
The total ....	62	03	05
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

K. Edward Hsleyes Tenem<sup>t</sup>. att will in his owne  
John Blakemore William Altree & Richard  
Lewis holding.

1. The house and homestead <sup>1</sup> ....	01	01	35
2. The Coate yard ....	00	00	36
3. The Crofte ....	00	01	14
4. The heath Bruch ....	04	02	31
5. The Kendall Parke ....	01	02	15
6. The Broomy Leyes ....	04	01	12
7. The Moore meadowe ....	01	01	06
8. The Moores.... ....	07	02	10 <sup>2</sup>
9. The twelve Ridges.... ....	03	02	22 <sup>3</sup>
10. The Birches.... ....	04	03	28 <sup>4</sup>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Arable Land in the comon feilds ....	26	03	31
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
The total ....	57	00	00
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

L. John Blakemores Tenem<sup>t</sup> at will.

1. The house and homestead <sup>5</sup> ....	02	01	17
2. The Crofte ....	01	01	00
3. The Moore ....	06	03	36
4. The Moore leasowe and poole taile ....	06	01	10
5. Blimhill moore ....	12	02	37
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Arable Land in the Comon feilds ....	29	02	20
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
The total ....	30	01	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
The total ....	59	03	36
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

<sup>1</sup> Now in the occupation of Mr. Hope, the Earl of Bradford's head gardener.

<sup>2</sup> Added later: "in Jo. Blackmor's hand."

<sup>3</sup> Added later: "in Rich. Lewis."

<sup>4</sup> Added later: "in W. Altrees."

<sup>5</sup> Opposite the present Post Office, south of the Watling Street, and west of the road to the church; it has now disappeared.



M. William Starkies tenem<sup>t</sup> at will.

	A.	R.	P.
1. The house and backside <sup>1</sup> ....	04	00	10 <sup>2</sup>
2. The Kitchin lessow ....	01	00	13
3. The new lessowes ....	03	02	05 <sup>3</sup>
4. The Hatch lessow ....	04	02	28 <sup>4</sup>
5. The Heath Bruch ....	13	02	10 <sup>5</sup>
6. Penford meadow ....	02	01	09
7. Brooke furlong ....	07	02	18 <sup>6</sup>
8. The Bagattes ....	11	02	03 <sup>7</sup>
9. The new Peice ....	07	01	28 <sup>8</sup>
10. The Shutte meadowe ....	04	01	38 <sup>9</sup>
11. Blacke poole meadowe ....	01	01	11
12. The Spanne.... ....	05	00	05 <sup>10</sup>
	66	02	18
Arable Land in the Coṃon feilds ....	08.	00	3 <sup>8</sup>
The total ....	74	03	16

N. Richard Colyes tenem<sup>t</sup> at will.

1. The house and homested <sup>11</sup> ....	03	03	35
2. The Cote yard ....	01	00	10
3. The werges ....	05	00	07
4. Stocking meadowe....	05	03	33
5. The Sparkeleyes ....	29	02	28
6. Blacke poole meadowe ....	05	00	08
7. The Strutttes ....	02	03	27
8. The Spanne.... ....	02	02	14
9. The Broomy leyes ....	05	02	06
10. The heath Bruch ....	09	01	23
	71	00	31
Arable Land in the coṃon feilds ....	40	02	18
The total ....	111	03	09

<sup>1</sup> Opposite the present Rectory garden gate, south of the Watling Street, and east of the road to the church; it has now disappeared.

<sup>2</sup> Added later: "in T. W<sup>s</sup>. tenure."

<sup>3</sup> Added later to this and the preceding: "Ed. Cartwright."

<sup>4</sup> Added later: "Wid. Altree."

<sup>5</sup> Added later: "E. Cartwright."

<sup>6</sup> Added later to this and the preceding: "Wid. Altree."

<sup>7</sup> Added later: "Cartwright & ff. Blakemore."

<sup>8</sup> Added later: "Hen. Babb."

<sup>9</sup> Added later: "E. Cartwright."

<sup>10</sup> Added later to this and the preceding: "Geo. Wells."

<sup>11</sup> Some time afterwards the Rectory; the green-house in the Rectory garden now occupies the site.



O. Henry Babs tenem<sup>t</sup> att will.

	A.	R.	P.
1. The house and homested <sup>1</sup> ....	1	2	28
2. The Birches....	3	0	27
3. The lower Shoreley meadow	5	0	26
4. The Hatch meadow	1	2	20
5. Stafford Pitte	1	0	26
6. The wadlandes	8	2	28
7. The Spanne ...	1	2	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Arable Land in the Co <sup>m</sup> on feilds	16	3	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
The total	39	3	19

P. Thomas Meddins tenem<sup>t</sup> att will.

1. The house and homested <sup>2</sup> ....	1	1	9
2. The Upper yard	1	0	0
3. The good Ale pittes	2	3	38
4. Greet hill lessow	6	2	15
5. Blackmore Riddings	7	0	7
6. Piroe Close	1	0	35
7. The Broomy leyes	2	1	24
8. The Hatch yate	1	0	32
9. The hatch lessow	1	3	30
10. Stafford Pitte	1	0	38
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Arable Land in the Co <sup>m</sup> on feilds	16	3	35
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
The total	43	3	23

Q. Edward Sawyers tenem<sup>t</sup> att will.

1. The house and homested <sup>3</sup> ....	0	3	22
2. The lower yard	1	3	10
3. The hatch lessow	3	0	18
4. The hatch lessow	2	3	24
5. The Gorsty lessow	3	1	35
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Arable Land in the Co <sup>m</sup> on feilds	3	3	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
The total	15	3	37

<sup>1</sup> Near the present Post Office.<sup>2</sup> The site of the present School.<sup>3</sup> Now two cottages, to the east of the School.





R. Richard Lewis his tenem<sup>s</sup> att will.

	A.	R.	P.
1. The house and homested <sup>1</sup> ....	0	3	25
2. Selmans Crofte	2	1	27
3. The wadlandes	5	2	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8	3	12

S. Widdowe Alcockes<sup>2</sup> tenem<sup>t</sup> att will.

1. The house and homested <sup>3</sup> ....	2	1	30
2. The lower yard	1	2	22
3. The ffurlong	2	1	26
4. The Paddocke	4	3	19
5. Brooke ffurlong	5	2	18
6. Penford meadow	2	0	10
7. The heath Bruch	4	0	36
8. ffently lessow	6	3	3
9. Wadlands lessow	4	1	35
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	34	1	39
Arable Land in the Coñon feilds	6	0	31
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
The total	40	2	30

T. Edward Merediths house and backside<sup>4</sup> att will

1	0	35
---	---	----

V. Francis Blackmans house and backside<sup>5</sup> att will

3	0	8
---	---	---

<sup>1</sup> The site of the present Rectory cottages.

<sup>2</sup> Presumably the widow of William Alcock, and the mother of another William Alcock who was buried at Weston 22 July 1681. This man's direct descendants are still residing in the parish; his great-great-great-grandson, John Alcock, is in the Earl of Bradford's employment, and occupies the Shrewsbury Lodge.

<sup>3</sup> Opposite the Beighterton Farm, south-west of the road to Blynhill; it has now disappeared.

<sup>4</sup> Now Weston Bank, occupied by G. R. Carter Esq., the Earl of Bradford's agent.

<sup>5</sup> North-east of the Beighterton cottages; some sheds in the Beighterton paddocks now occupy the site.



## The Towne feilds.

	A.	R.	P.
Hastie feilds <sup>1</sup> Contayning	20	3	0
Birch feild <sup>2</sup>	59	1	34
Windmill feild <sup>3</sup>	118	2	36
Bitterton lower feild <sup>4</sup>	13	3	17
Broad Sitch feild <sup>5</sup>	23	2	8
	<u>236</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>15</u>

## Commons.

Weston heath contayning	454	2	32
-------------------------	-----	---	----

The total Contents of this mannor 2248 1 23

Memorandū that the feilds measured entirely contayne 236<sup>a</sup> 1<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>p</sup>, but measured as distinguished into seillall parcells, the wayes and ditches not measured as part of any Tenem<sup>t</sup> Contayne 5<sup>a</sup> 0<sup>r</sup> 35<sup>p</sup>.

Memorandū that in Thomas Cottons Broomy Leyes F N<sup>o</sup> 2 there are 2 Butts of Gleabland for w<sup>ch</sup> hee payes to the Parson 2<sup>s</sup> p ann: But w<sup>ch</sup> they are is unknowne.

By Sam: Wightwick."

<sup>1</sup> Now the Shrewsbury Walk.

<sup>2</sup> South of the present Shrewsbury Lodge, and south-west of the road to Tong; afterwards glebe, and now part of the Woodlands farm.

<sup>3</sup> North of the Watling Street, and extending both east and west of the present Hatch Lane.

<sup>4</sup> North of the four cross roads beyond Beighterton, between the road leading to the White Sitch and the Blymhill Rectory drive gate.

<sup>5</sup> East of Beighterton Farm, and of the road to Blymhill.



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## ERRATA.

- Page 145, line 17. *For* at the age of 74 *read* in the 74th year of her age.  
 Page 238, after note 5. *Add* From Kirby's "Suffolk Traveller" (2nd ed.), p. 186,  
 it would however appear that Combs Hall was pulled down considerably  
 earlier than this, shortly before the year 1764.  
 Page 240, line 9. *For* Stafford *read* Strafford.  
 Page 252, note 5. *Omit* John Bridgeman Esq., afterwards.  
 Page 286, line 14. *For* as M.A. in 1878 *read* as M.A. in 1880.

## ADDENDUM.

- Page 145. *Insert additional note:* There are portraits at Weston of Dame  
 Elizabeth Wilbraham by Sir Peter Lely, and of Sir Thomas Wilbraham  
 by Verelst, both of which are reproduced among the illustrations to this  
 volume.















JULY 75

N. MANCHESTER,

