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SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL  
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NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

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All Donations will be acknowledged in the *Transactions* of the Society.





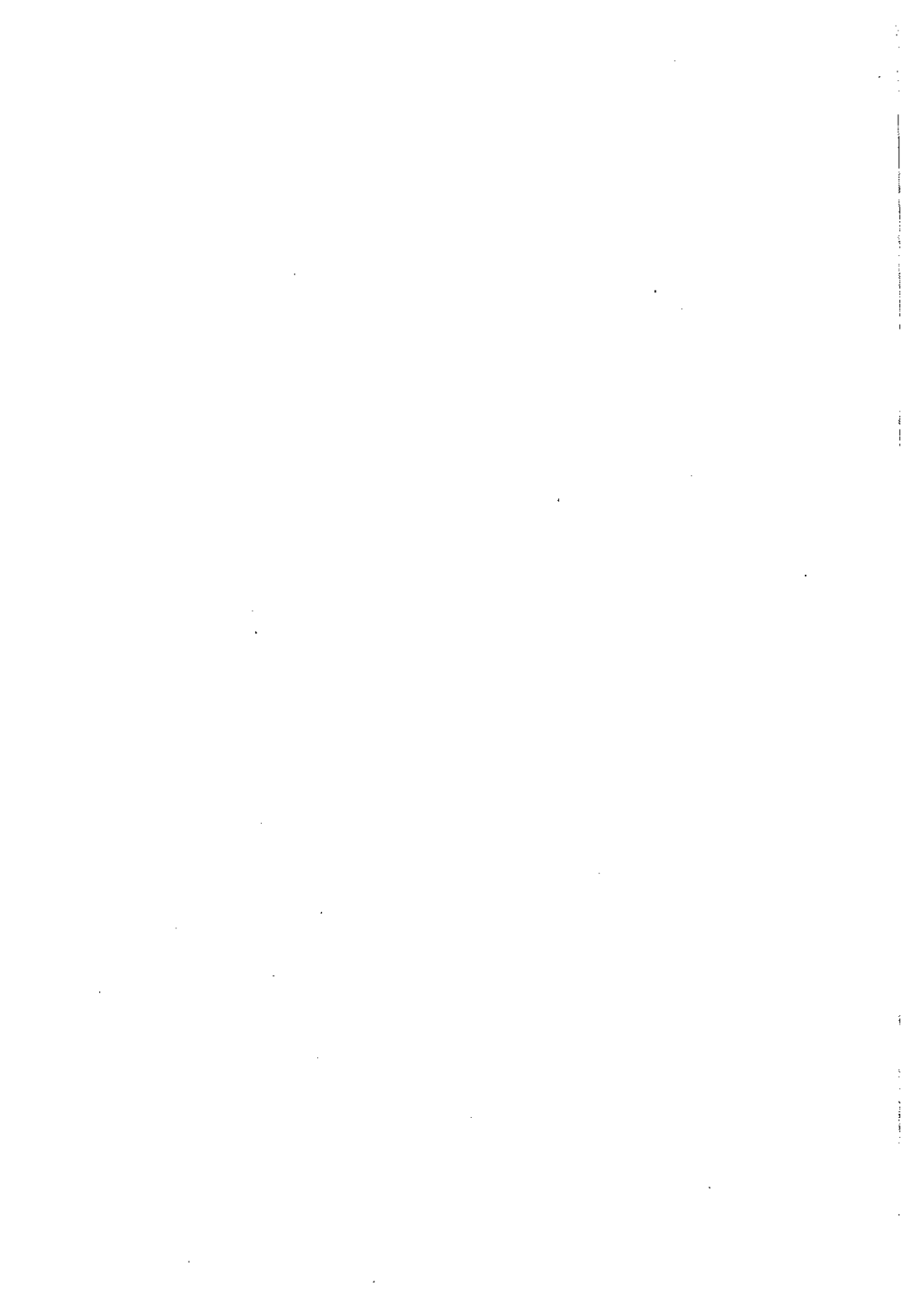
J. LAING, PHOTO. SALOP.

Very truly yours  
Willm. Allport Leighton

PORTRAIT OF THE HONORARY EDITOR,  
THE REV. W. A. LEIGHTON, B.A. (CAM.), F.L.S., &c., &c

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At a meeting of the Council held July 14th, 1885, it was unanimously resolved that the Honorary Editor of these *Transactions* should be requested to allow his portrait to appear in the next number. Having obtained his consent, an opportunity is offered of stating the following facts:—On the establishment of the Shropshire Archæological Society in 1877, an Editorial Committee was appointed, but as the work devolved entirely on Mr. Leighton, he was soon after appointed sole Honorary Editor, which office he has continued to hold to the present time. The transcription of old documents for publication in the *Transactions*, the collation of facts and dates, the revision of contributors' papers, and the extensive correspondence involved in his duties, have placed the Society under a deep debt of gratitude to him, and the Council feel confident that the step they have taken will be gratifying to every member of the Society.



## FURTHER PARTICULARS OF DONINGTON.

By H. F. J. VAUGHAN, Esq.

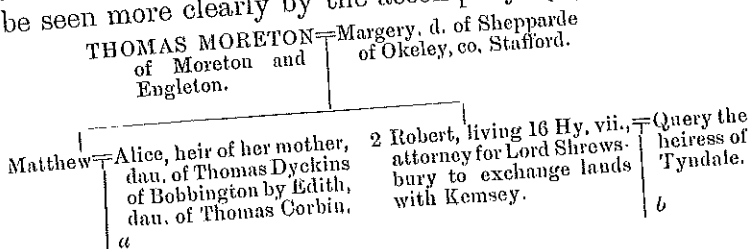
THE history of a parish is oftentimes written in parchments, mouldering in the archives of those who are little able to appreciate them, or who take little interest in them, and even though the principal portions may be gathered from other sources, yet the deeds of the several parochial estates often throw great light upon the subject, and from them many further particulars may be gained. It is frequently the case that these deeds are left in the custody of family lawyers or others, and so their owner is unable, even if willing, to take the trouble of going through them and seeing what they contain, a labour, it is scarcely necessary to say, which cannot be expected from anyone unless interested in archæology and history. The following particulars have been taken from the title deeds of the several properties, illustrated and amplified by additions from the Heralds' Visitations, county histories, family papers, and other trustworthy sources, and it is hoped that they will form a supplement to other articles on the history of this neighbourhood, which have already appeared in these pages.

In the parish of Donington we have portions, at least, of the following divisions:—1, the Manor or Lordship of Humphreston; 2, that of Beamish; 3, that of Donington; 4, that of Cosford; and 5, the Liberty of the White Ladies. We find that the Lordship of Donington, divided between the families of Sprencheaux and Wynnesbury, was united by the marriage of Sir Fulke Sprencheaux and Margery, heiress of Wynnesbury, and we find further that Sir Fulke was dead and

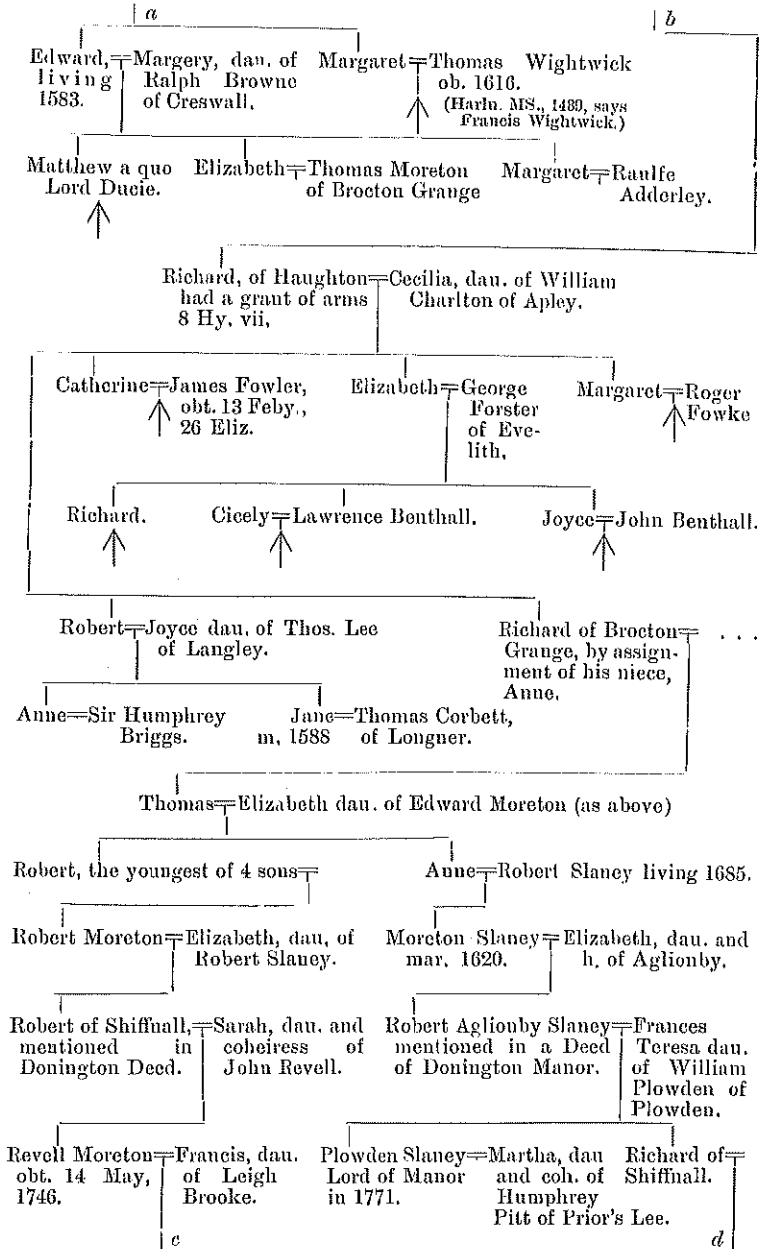
Margery a widow in 1479, when she had power over the estates of both. We also know that the family of Corbett of Longner had interests in Donington, and the next Lords of the Manor are the Moretons, whence the question arises how did the Manor or Lordship of Donington descend? Did Robert Moreton acquire it with the heiress of Tyndale?

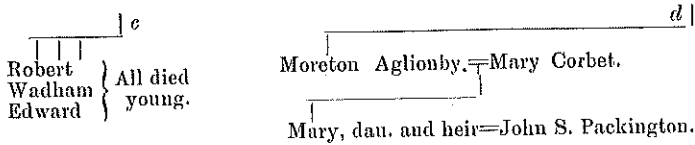
Perhaps there exists no actual record of the descent of the Manor between the end of the 15th century and the beginning of the 18th, so that it is impossible to say whether it passed by descent or by purchase, but a perusal of the pedigrees of the several families would suggest a probable descent as follows:—Margery, the eldest co-heir of Sir Fulke Sprencheaux, became the wife of Richard Lee, of Langley, county Salop, and their eldest son, Fulke Lee, married Alice, daughter of Sir Richard Cornwall, of Berrington, county Hereford, by whom he had issue Thomas Lee, who by Jane, daughter of Sir Robert Corbet, of Morton Corbet, was father, with other issue, of Joyce, wife of Robert Moreton, of Shiffnall. Such being the descent it is very probable that the Manor may have followed it.

Robert Moreton, of Houghton, near Shiffnall, and his wife Joyce, daughter of Thomas Lee, had issue two daughters, co-heirs, Anne, wife of Humphrey Briggs, and Jane, married in 1588 to Thomas Corbett, of Longner. Anne assigned her interest in Brocton Grange to her uncle, Richard Moreton, from whom descended the Robert Moreton and Robert Aglionby Slaney, mentioned in a Deed of 30th July, 1734, and the Robert Moreton mentioned in one ten years earlier. This will be seen more clearly by the accompanying pedigree:—

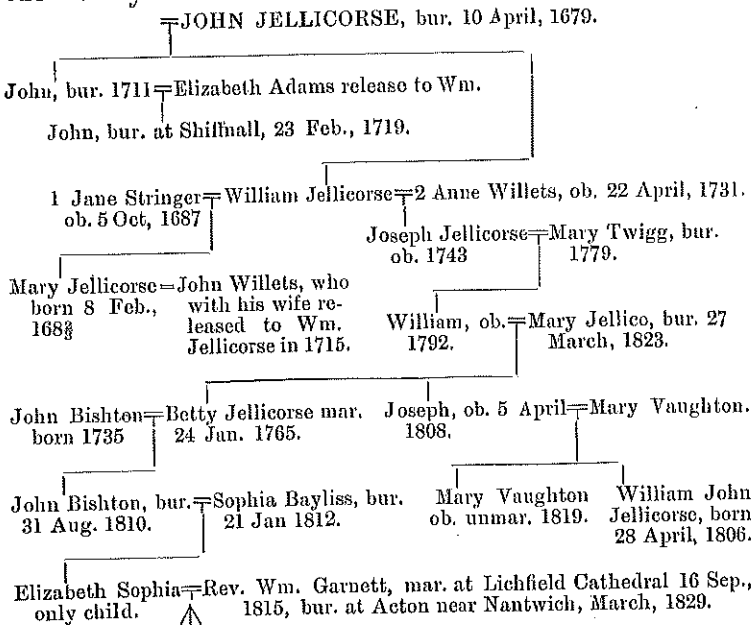








It appears, however, from Deeds of 1700 and 1724 that part of the Donington estate passed from William Mason the elder and Ruth his wife to William Mason the younger, yeoman, between whom and Robert Moreton is an Indenture of 1734, which also mentions Joseph Jellicorse and Walter Stubbs, both names much connected with this property. In the year 1737 a sale takes place between Walter Stubbs and Joseph Jellicorse, whose relatives, John Jellicorse, William Jellicorse, and Jane, his wife, and John Jellicorse, and Richard Stringer, are mentioned in an earlier Deed of 1679. The following pedigree, extracted from the Deeds, gives the relationships of the different members of the family:—



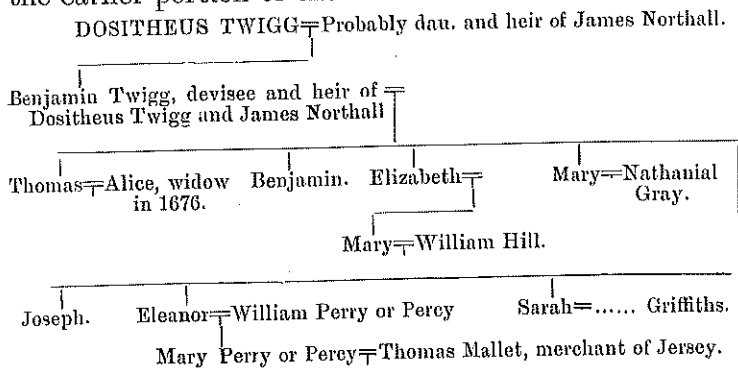
In an Indenture of 1712 we have mentioned William

Jellicorse and Anne, his wife, and on another part Edward Jellicoe, Thomas Jellico, and Thomas Jellico the younger. It is a curious instance of two families with similar names being connected with the same neighbourhood, and becoming finally united.

The property was much divided since a portion passed from John Willets to William Smith, yeoman, in connection with which, in a Deed of 1757, we have mentioned several members of a family named Perkes and Benjamin and George Stokes.

In 1762 is an Indenture of lease and release between John Smith, who derived land from John Willets in 1723, and John Yates, and subsequently appear the names of William Kempson, and Gough Willis Kempson, as having an interest in the property, which, together with the interest of John Smith, passed to John Jellicorse in 1796.

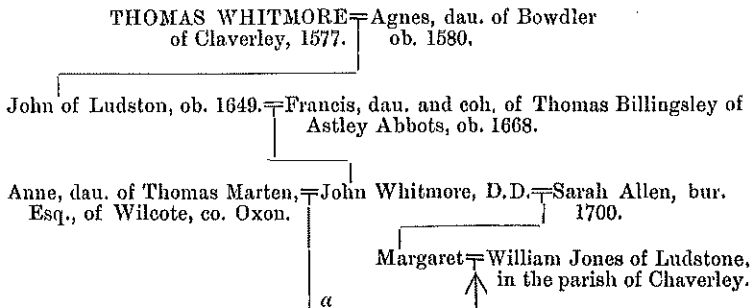
Another portion of the property seems to have passed from Richard Moreton (1710) through Thomas Wightwick, the elder, and Thomas Wightwick, the younger, 1739, to Tristram Wightwick, and so in 1768 to William Jellicorse. We have also an Indenture between Benjamin and Dositheus Twigg in 1709, and the will of the latter, which is dated 30th December, 1737. There is also the will of another Dositheus Twigg, dated 15th June, 1782. The connection between the families of Twigg and Jellicorse is seen in the above pedigree, but the earlier portion of the descent is as follows:—

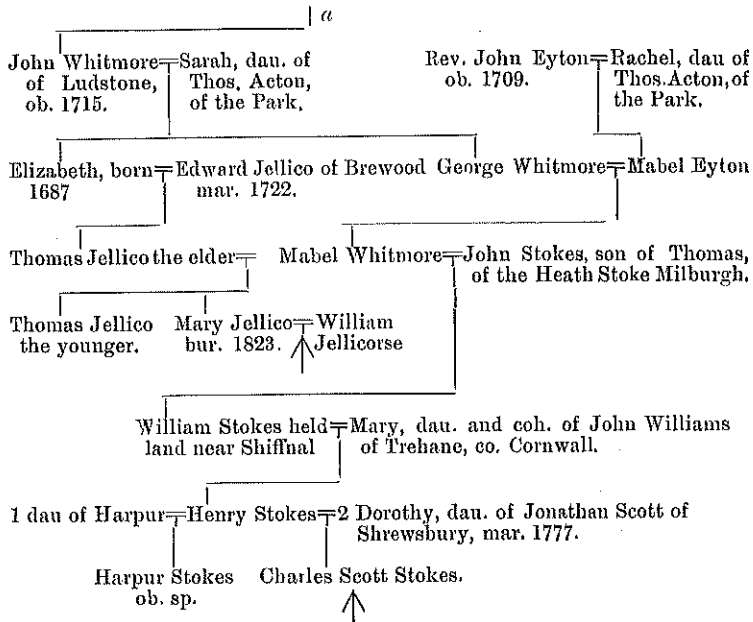


Isabel, daughter of one of these, was the wife of John Gregory, merchant, of Montreal in Canada. Amongst others interested in the Donington lands we find the family of Parkes. They are mentioned in the Indenture of lease and release of 1757 between William and John Smith, Joseph and Eleanor Parkes, William Parkes, and Benjamin and George Stokes. In the year 1835 we have administration to the effects of Joseph Parkes, and in the preceding year, in an elaborate Deed conveying land from William Farmer the elder to George Jones, Charles Parkes is mentioned.

From the above it is evident that the Donington property was much sub-divided at one time, but afterwards consolidated by the family of Jellicorse, who purchased much of the land and exchanged other parts with Yates, &c. They did not, however, acquire the whole of the property, since among the Donington Deeds, besides the conveyances to George Jones from the family of Jellicorse, there is one from William Farmer, the elder, and William Farmer, the younger, &c., in 1844. There was also another portion came from Miss Elizabeth Evans, while another may be traced from Plowden Slaney in 1768 to John Plant, then in 1809 to Elizabeth Plant, and William Pickin Farmer, and so to George Jones.

There is a certificate of burial of the George Stokes above-named on the 29th September, 1786, and it seems not at all improbable that he was related to the family of Stokes, which was connected, as the subjoined pedigree shows, with the family of Jellico.



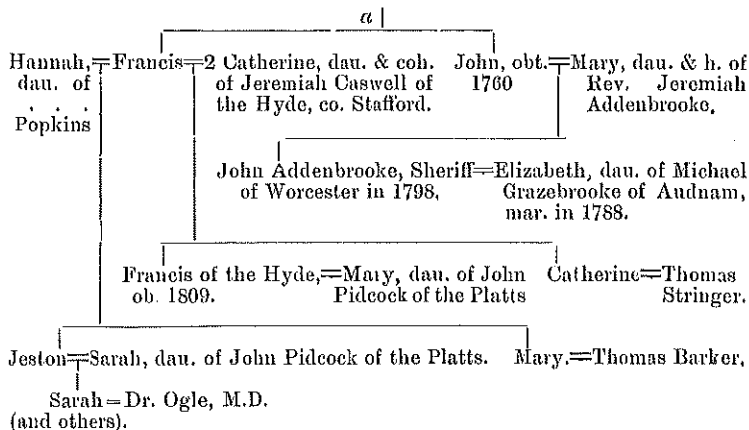


In the churchyard at Donington is the following inscription upon a recumbent stone:—"In memory of Anne, wife of John Jones of Claverley, formerly wife of Joseph Yates of Donington, who ob<sup>t</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 6, 1772." This is near the new porch, on the south side of the church, which was the resting-place of the family of Jellicorse, and near to which rises the truncated pedestal of the old Churchyard Cross, now turned into a sundial, and bearing the following inscriptions, "I Bedford Ffecit. William Mason Churchwarden 1709." The Thomas Acton mentioned in the above pedigree as father of the sisters, Mrs. Whitmore, of Ludstone, and Mrs. Eyton, of Eyton, was the second son of Sir Edward Acton, the first Baronet of Aldenham, by Sarah, daughter of Richard Mytton, of Halston, county Salop, and the name Mabel probably came from Mabell, daughter of Clement Stoner, of London, the wife of the aforesaid Thomas Acton. There was subsequently a connection between the families of Slaney and Eyton,

through the Plowdens. Colonel William Plowden married Mary, daughter of John Stoner, of Stoner, and had issue an heir, William, and a daughter, Frances, wife of Robert Aglionby Slaney, mentioned before. The son William had a son and heir, Edmund, whose son and heir, Edmund Plowden, married Anna Maria, daughter of Robert Burton, of Longner, and had an only daughter and heir, Anne Maria, wife of Rev. John Eyton, great grandson of Rev. John Eyton and Rachel Acton. Amidst these various changes we may seem to have lost sight of the Lordship or Manor, but such is not the case, for it remained in the family of Slaney, and Plowden Slaney, Esq., was Lord of the Manor when the Act of Parliament was passed for enclosing Kilsall Heath in 1771. From the Slaneys it probably passed to the family of Whiston of Kilsall, since the writer is informed that it came to the Bishtons from the Whistons in connection with the Kilsall estate, and so passed to George Jones, Esq.

The families of Farmer and Yates are connected, William Farmer having married Elizabeth Yates, and throughout the Deeds of the Donington estate we find this family of Yates constantly appearing in conveyances or exchanges. Even so late as 1835 there is an Indenture wherein the following names appear:—Francis Yates, Joseph Shore, and Richard Mountford, William John Jellicorse, John Addenbrooke Addenbrooke, Edward Addenbrooke, and Elizabeth Grazebrook, Robert Cooke, Charles Plimley, Sir Francis Lyttleton Holyoake, Goodrick, George Holyoake, George Jones, and John Pritchard. It is evident that the family of Yates owned considerable property in Donington, acquired, perhaps piecemeal, since there seem to have been constant interchanges with others, apparently with the object of consolidating it. The following table shows the connection of some of the other persons mentioned in the Deeds:—

FRANCIS HOMFRAY of Wales	=	2nd, Mary, dau. of Thomas Jeston, near Rotherham, co. York.		of the Heath, co. Worcester.
a				



And again,

John Pidcock, born 1756. J.P. = Elizabeth, daughter of George Hollington Barker of Birmingham and Coleshill,

Mary Anne = Edward Addenbrooke Addenbrooke.  
(and others).

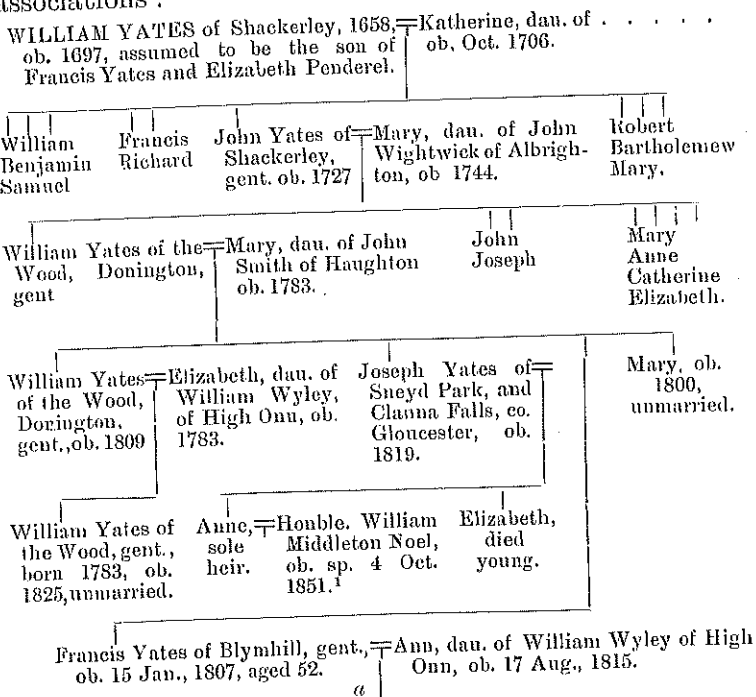
There are connected with this parish and neighbourhood of Donington several families bearing the same, or a very similar, surname, which, however, must not be confused, being really quite distinct; thus the family of Jellicoe is not to be confused with that of Jellicorse, the family of Jones, of Claverley, must not be confused with that which afterwards possessed Donington, and which came from Atcham, nor must we confuse the two families of Barker, both of whose names are connected with the Donington estate. George Hollingworth Barker belonged to a family seated at Birmingham, many of whom were solicitors, and the name often appears in trusts or mortgages. According to a very elaborate pedigree of the Barker family, he is deduced from the Shropshire family of that name, a branch of which was also seated in Cheshire, but a George Barker of the same family signs one of the Humphreston Deeds, and seals it with a crest, viz., A demi-moor holding a shield on the sinister arm, and an arrow in the right hand. This, however, is undoubtedly the crest of an Essex family of Barker, which was seated at Chignoll,

and bore a demi-moor, proper; in his dexter hand an arrow *or*, feathered and beaded *arg.*, on his sinister arm a shield of the 2nd, and over his shoulder, a sash. Either, then, Mr. Barker had a seal engraved with the wrong crest, not a very improbable thing in those days of heraldic ignorance, or he did not belong to the Shropshire family of Barker. The other family to which George Jones Barker belonged, who signs one of the Deeds connected with Donington, is the same as that now seated at Albrighton Hall, and came from Tilston in Cheshire, where they have owned property for many generations, and are to be traced in the Parish Registers to the time of the Tudors.

If we now pass on to the Shackerley estate, we shall find that it consisted of several parts. In a Deed of 1715 are mentioned William Jellicorse, Anne his wife, Edward and Thomas Jellicoe, Joseph Jellicorse, John Willets and Mary his wife, *née* Jellicorse. The connection between these is sufficiently shewn in the pedigrees already given. Another portion of the estate was connected with the Colmores, lords of the Manor of Humphreston, and it is worthy of remark that in these Deeds we meet with the name of Joseph Careless, as late as 1800, whose family was early connected with Albrighton and its neighbourhood, and one member of which was singularly serviceable to Charles II., and probably to some extent directed his flight to the Whiteladies. The Bishtons were connected with another part, and in 1793 we have an indenture between John Bishton and Betty his wife (*née* Jellicorse) of one part, and John Bishton the younger and Sophia his wife (*née* Bayliss) of another part, while a Deed of 1729 shews that Robert Aglionby Slaney had an interest in the same portion, and at a much later date we meet with the names of William Dean and John Middleton Ashdown. In 1724 there is a grant from John Willets to William Fletcher and Thomas Fletcher, appears in 1801, a name which still lingers in the neighbourhood. The family of Yates

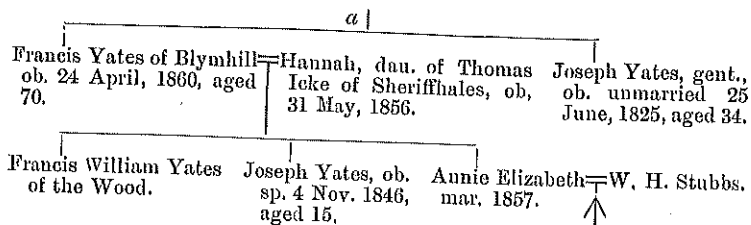


was also connected with Shackerley, and so late as 1824 is a Deed wherein appear the names of Sir Henry Cann Lippincott, Honourable William Middleton Noel and Anne his wife, and Francis Yates of one part, and Thomas Bishton of the other part, a deed of mortgage. The following table of descent, kindly given by a member of the family, and founded upon Deeds, will point out some of the connections of the family of Yates, which is so constantly mentioned in these Deeds, and which is interesting from its historical associations :—

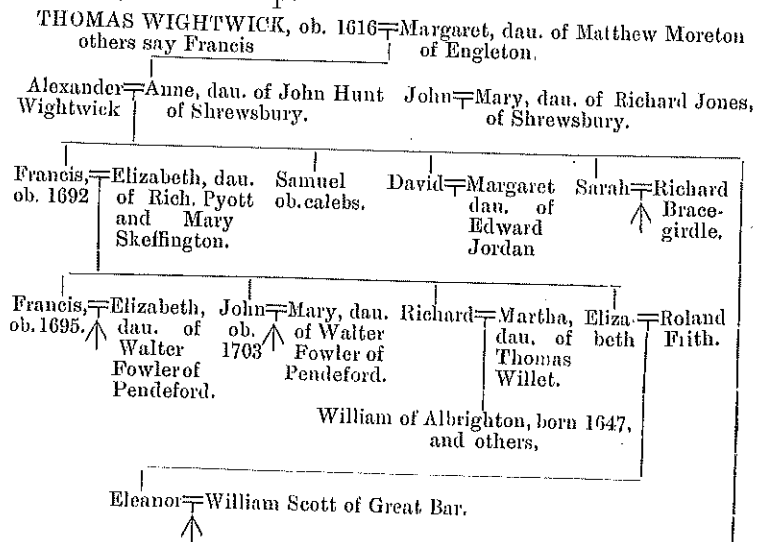


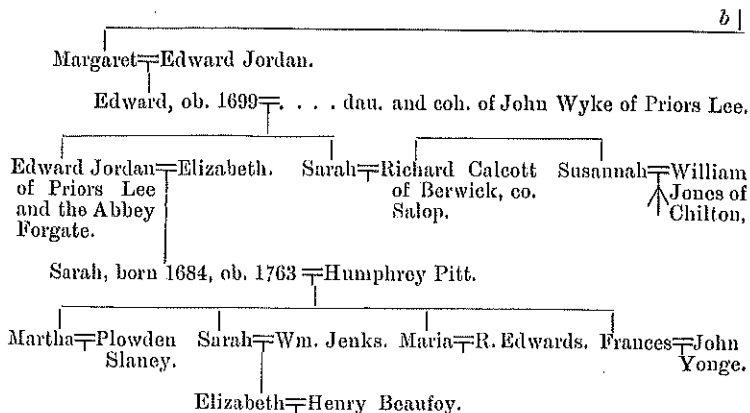
<sup>1</sup> His brother, Hon. Berkeley Octavius Noel, married Letitia Penelope, only daughter of Ralph Adderley, and sister of Arden Adderley, who married Anne, only daughter of William Roger Bishton, of Shackerley, so that in this way there was a connection between the families of Bishton and Yates. The above William Middleton Noel and Berkeley Octavius Noel were grandsons of Gerard Anne Edwardes, of Welham Grove, county Leicester, and Lady Jane Noel, born 1783, daughter, and in her issue heir of Baptist, fourth Earl of Gainsborough.

## FURTHER PARTICULARS OF DONINGTON.



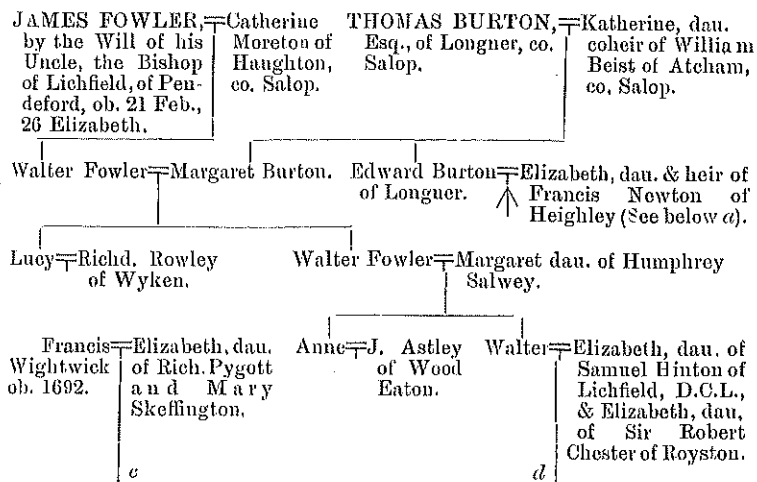
A Deed of 1st March, 1686, connected with the Albrighton Hall estate, is a lease and release between Francis Wightwick, Esq., brother and heir of Samuel Wightwick, gent., deceased, and John Wightwick, gent., one of the sons of the said Francis of one part and John Smith of Lincoln's Inn of the other. This shows the said John Wightwick to be the same person as the one mentioned in the pedigree above, whose daughter Mary married John Yates. There is a little difficulty, however, as to Mary Wightwick, daughter of John, since she also married Charles Whyte. He may have been her first husband, or there may be a mistake in the Christian name. Francis Wightwick had also a daughter Mary, who, however, Shaw says, married, but died sp.

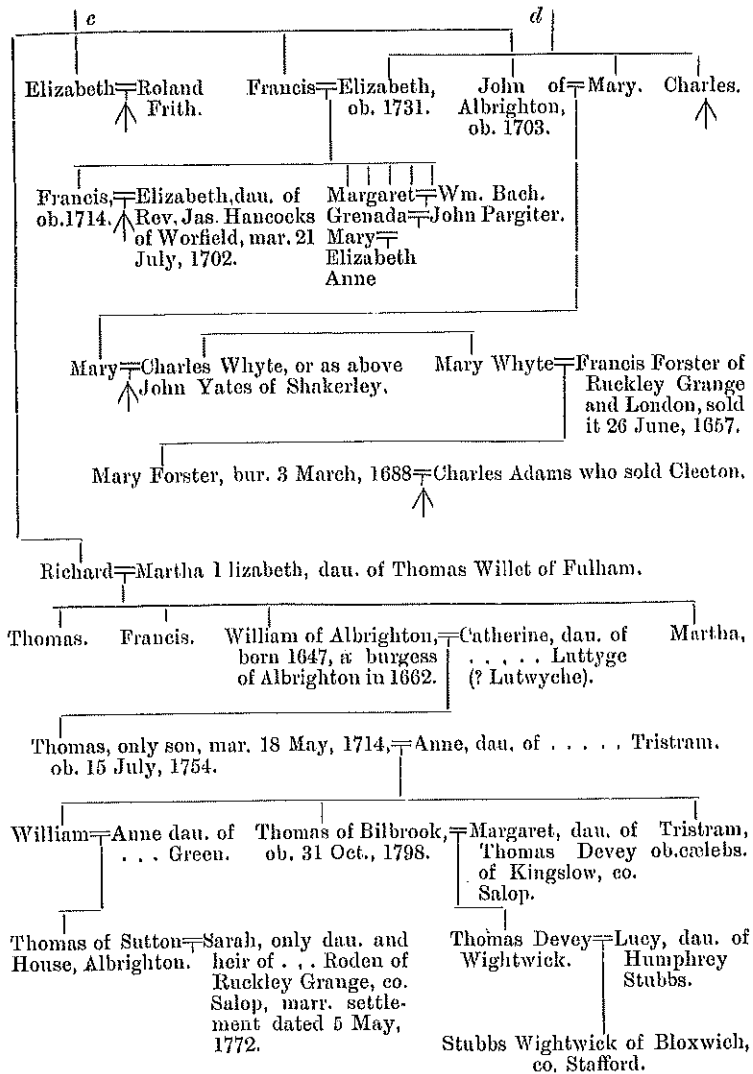




It is interesting to note the relationship and connections which exist among all these families, and are illustrated by the following pedigrees, taken from those of the several families to whom they refer. The originals may be found in the Blakeway Collections, Oxford, Shaw's *History of Staffordshire*, Burke's *History of the Commoners*, Sanders' *History of Shennstone, &c., &c., &c.*

Pedigree showing the relations of several families connected with Donington :—

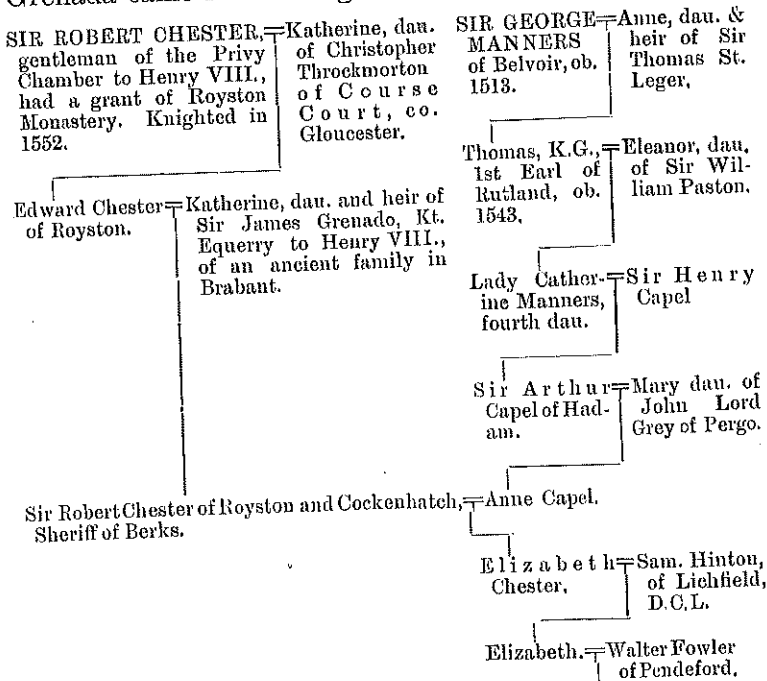




Sarah, the wife of Thomas Wightwick, survived her husband, and was the last resident at old Ruckley Grange before the alterations and additions preparatory to its becoming the seat of Moreton Aglionby Slaney. We have previously referred to the connec-

tion between the Wightwicks, several of whom are buried in Albrighton churchyard, and the Donington property; the name of Thomas Devey appears in a Herriots Hayes Deed of 15th June, 1715, and that of John Devey in one of 1st May, 1728, while in one of 27th December, 1735, are the names of Edward Jordan, Thomas Devey, Walter Woodcock and wife, and Walter Stubbs; but we must not anticipate.

The following pedigree of Hinton and Chester, besides its intrinsic interest, shows whence the curious name of Grenada came in the Wightwick family:—



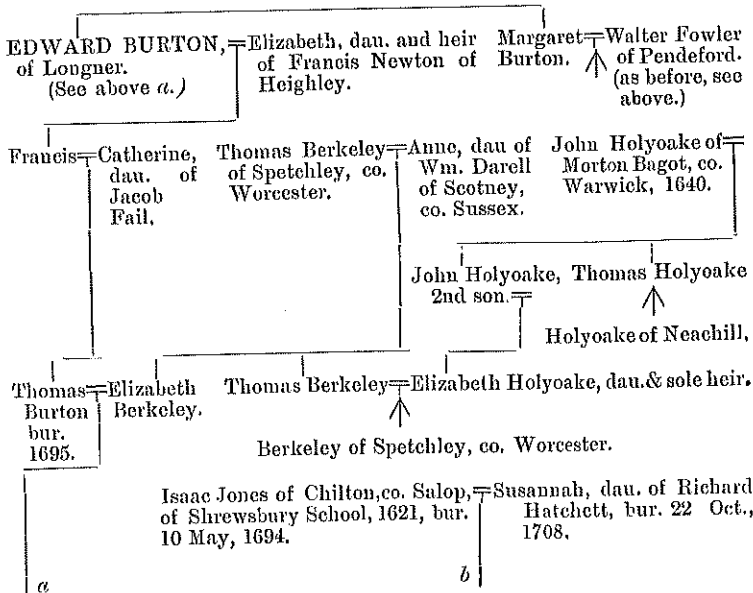
Anne, the eldest daughter and co-heir of Sir William Paston, was wife of Sir Gilbert Talbot, of Grafton, county Worcester, and mother of three co-heirs—1, Margaret, wife of Robert Newport; 2, Elizabeth, wife of John Littleton, of Frankley; and 3, Mary, wife of Thomas Astley, of Patshull. This Thomas Astley had

by Mary his wife a daughter, Elizabeth, wife of John Wrottesley, and a son, Gilbert (ob<sup>t</sup> 1588), who by Dorothea, daughter of Sir John Giffard, of Chillington, had with others a daughter, married to Anthony Benthall, and a son Thomas, who by Mary, daughter of Walter Aston, of Tixall, had issue Walter Astley, who married Mary, daughter of Francis Trentham, of Rowcester, and so was progenitor of the future Astleys of Patshull, and by his daughter Margaret, wife of Alexander Wood (whose first wife was Frances, daughter of Adams of Shrewsbury), of Laurence Wood, whose only daughter and heir, Dorothy, married Adam Waring, of Shrewsbury, whence the Scotts and Scott Warings. (From an old Parchment Pedigree of Wood in 1623).

The above Sir Gilbert Talbot, of Grafton, was half-brother of Sir John Talbot, of Albrighton, jure uxoris Margaret, heiress of Adam Troutbeck, whose son, Sir John Talbot, is buried at Albrighton, in the chancel of the church, where there is an altar tomb supporting the effigies of this Sir John and Frances his wife, a daughter of Sir John Giffard, of Chillington, and it is curious that on the shields of arms sculptured round the tomb, the first quartering of Talbot is not as at present the arms of Rhys ab Tewdur, i.e., the lion rampant within a bordure indented, but simply a lion rampant, probably the golden lion, on the *azure* shield of Belesme, Earl of Shrewsbury, as borne on the garter plate. The original coat of Talbot, (or as it was often spelt Talbott) was, bendy of ten *argent* and *gules*. Lady Catherine Manners was the second wife of Sir Henry Capel, but he is believed to have left no issue by his first wife, Mary, daughter of Anthony Browne, Viscount Montacute. John Lord Grey, of Pirgo, an estate in Essex, was fourth son of Henry, Duke of Suffolk, and ancestor of the Earls of Stamford. By his wife Mary, eldest sister of Anthony, Viscount Montacute, he had issue, Henry, his successor, Margaret, wife of Sir Henry Capel, and Frances, wife of Sir

William Cooke, of Giddy Hall, County Essex. The *Visitation of Essex*, of 1558, calls him Sir William Cooke, second son of Highnam in Gloucestershire, and we find that his sister Anne was wife of Sir Nicholas Bacon, the Lord Keeper, his sister Mildred was wife of Sir William Cecil, Lord Treasurer, and his sister Elizabeth was the wife of John Lord Russell, son of Francis, Earl of Bedford. It will be remembered that the Brownes, Viscounts Montacute, or Montague, were the representatives of John Nevill, Marquis Montacute, the brother of Richard Nevill, "the King Maker," Earl of Warwick.

Anne Capel, the wife of Sir Robert Chester, had eleven brothers and eight sisters. Thus we find the blood of some of the most memorable and illustrious persons in English history quietly settled down in this Parish of Donington, and, indeed, the most historical blood may often be traced to those whose more limited fortunes prevent them from assuming the magnificence of wealthier though less nobly-born persons.







Robert Aglionby Slaney of the other part. This is followed in 1768 by a Deed between Plowden Slaney and George Durant, an attested copy of whose will is dated August 3rd, 1780, and seven years later appears the name of Rev. Charles Buckeridge, his son-in-law, with that of Benjamin Charnoch Payne. It will be remembered that the lands of Kilsall adjoin those of Tong Castle.

The copy of agreement as to the lands remaining tithable, between the Rector of Donington and the landowners, bears date 10th May, 1791. In a Deed, to which there are eleven parties, bearing date 24th March, 1775, we have the names of Henry Duncalfe, Henry Whately, John Rowley, the elder, John Rowley, the younger, Thomas Rowley, Michael Rowley, Joseph Rowley, William Rogers, Joseph Wakeman, &c. The land passes to William Rogers, then to Thomas Harries and John Bishton in 1791. Another portion comes from Charles Colmore, and there is a copy of the will of Edward Colmore, 21st March, 1758.

Thomas Pidgeon had an interest here in 1777, which passed through William Stean to John Bishton. Under the Donington Deeds dated 19th June, 1830, is an attested copy of lease and release between Henry Pidgeon, Robert Pidgeon, Mary Tomlinson, Elizabeth Pidgeon, and Sarah Pidgeon of the first part; Francis Yates of the second part; Alexander Cosmo Orme of the third part; and William Tomkyns Price of the fourth part; so that this family evidently was much connected with the neighbourhood at one time.

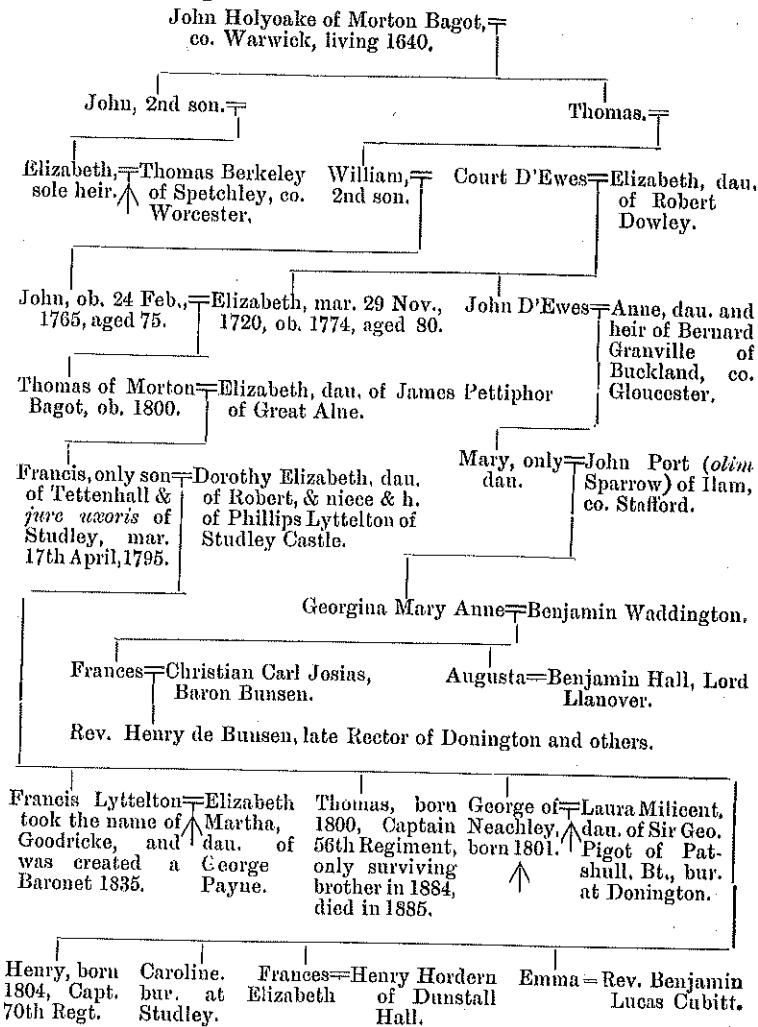
At a later date, November, 1823, we have a quadripartite Deed, to which Rev. William Garnett and his wife are one party, and George and Thomas Bishton another party, and in August, 1826, is an Indenture of lease and release between—firstly, John Egginton, and Joseph Hordern; secondly, the aforesaid Thomas Bishton; thirdly, Thomas Pearce; and fourthly, Benjamin Slaney. In a Deed of the same series, dated September, 1830, we have the names of Benjamin

Slaney, Charles Baldwin Brown, Thomas Bishton, Thomas Pearce, and William Turner, and in another of the same date we have the same persons except William Turner, instead of whose name appears that of John Adams. This is followed, 31st July, 1835, by an Indenture between Thomas Bishton of the first part, and John Pritchard, the elder, George Pritchard and John Pritchard, the younger, of the second part. From a notice of Messrs. Pritchard to William Turner, and others, of a further charge dated 31st July, 1835, it is evident that the property was then mortgaged. The Pritchards were a firm of solicitors of high standing in Broseley and the neighbourhood, and, as the name shows, of Welsh extraction.

Somewhat earlier, we have a tripartite Deed, dated June 6th, 1835, between Thomas Bishton, George Bayliss, and William Cheshire Glover, and next month (July 11th) between Thomas Bishton and John Horton. George Bayliss and Sophia Dale had also interests in this property, as is evident from an indenture of 1835, but the whole interests are expressed and brought together by two deeds of 1840, the former of which, dated August 31st, is between George Holyoake, James Offley, and George Jones; the latter is a Deed of lease and release between 1, Sophia Dale; 2, Mary Webb; 3, James Webb; 4, William Turner; 5, John Adams; 6, William Cheshire Glover; 7, Alexander Manson and wife; 8, John Horton; 9, George and John Pritchard; 10, Thomas Mytton and Rev. Thomas Edwardes Mytton Holland; 11, John Percival, William Bradburn, John Bucknall, George Corser, Eleanor Glover Hazeldine, and Thomas Fenn; 12, William Cheshire Glover; 13, Eleanor Glover; 14, William Eyke, and the said William Bradburn; 15, George Jones; 16, Thomas Harrison. At the date of this deed, John Jones, the only son of George Jones, must have been living at Kilsall since his son Henry was born there January 3rd, 1841, his daughter Ruth having been born at Donington June 24th, 1838. From the

above, we see that, as in the case of the Donington and Shackerley properties, so also with the Kilsall Whitehouse, there were many interests in the property, which were gradually acquired by George Jones.

We so constantly meet with the name of Holyoake, that the pedigree follows :—



Captain Thomas Holyoake lived for some time in

Albrighton, but the name of George Holyoake is more associated with the neighbourhood, his wife's fortune having been invested in the purchase of the Neachley or Neachill estate, where she died, and was buried in Donington Churchyard, a tombstone in the form of a cross, of chaste design, marking the spot, placed there by her friend the Countess of Bradford. She was a lady of high spirit and considerable attractions, generous to a fault, delighting in the society of cultivated friends of position, with whom she was surrounded, and to whom she was endeared by the brilliancy of her wit and kindness of heart. She once told the writer that to her one of the attractions of Neachley was that she could see from her windows the trees in Patshull Park, the former seat of her family.

With respect to the Kilsall Red House estate, including Shackerley Mill, we have a Deed of June 15th, 1693, being a sale of land at Kilsall, between Richard Taylor, Thomas Taylor, and wife, William Smith and wife of one part, and William Willets of the other part; William Willets seems to have passed on his interest to John Willets, from whom, in conjunction with his wife, it passes May 20th, 1715, to Thomas Jellicorse and Richard Whiston. There are letters of Administration of the said John Willets April 20th, 1726, and April 4th, 1727, in which latter year we have an agreement between Mary Willets, of one part, and Anne Jellicorse, Henry Ruston and Humphrey Manning of the other part. Next year is an Indenture between Humphrey Manning and wife of one part, Thomas Jellicorse and Jonathan Ruston of the second part, and William Bishton and William Whiston of the third part. There is an extract from letters of Administration to the effects of Jonathan Ruston, dated May 4th, 1731. The next year, William Bishton, the elder, and William Bishton, the younger, came to an agreement with Thomas Jellicorse and Walter Stubbs, while on the 19th of March, 1741, William Whiston has an agreement with Thomas Jellicorse and his wife.

In 1761, May 19th, we have an Indenture of lease and release between the said William Bishton and wife, John Bishton, Jeremiah Lovatt and wife, Christopher Chambers and wife, and Jane Whiston, of the first part; and Thomas Cuxon of the other part; evidently a family Deed, for they were nearly all related or connected; and one of a somewhat similar character bears date 10th December, 1764, between the said John Bishton of the first part; Thomas and Betty Jellicorse of the second part; and William Bishton, the younger, and Walter Stubbs of the third part.

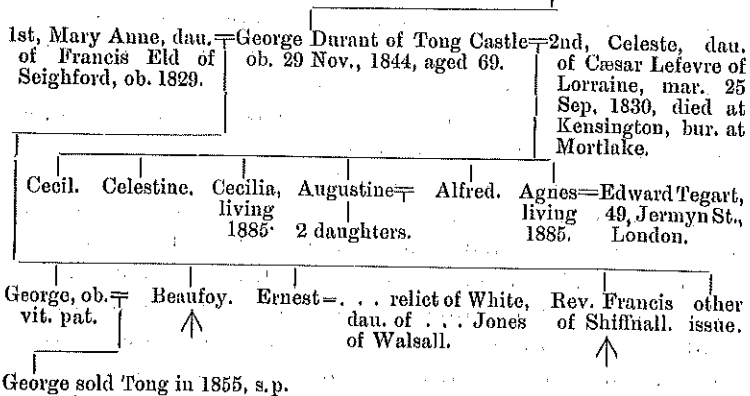
Another series of Deeds referring to this property, beginning with an Indenture of 22nd March, 1759, between John Wenlock and Mary Wells, shows an interest here of Thomas Hawkes, John Wenlock, Mary Yates, and John Smith. Then on 13th November, 1766, is an Indenture between the said Mary Yates and another Mary Yates, while two years later is an agreement between William Yates and John Bishton. All these interests with some others seem to have become invested in John Bishton about 1778.

Somewhat later, in another series, we have the names of John Chappel Woodhouse, Rector of Donington, then 25th March, 1804, an Indenture between John Wood and Thomas Morris, of the first part; and John Wase, William Emery and wife, John Dickin and wife, Sarah Wase, Thomas Higgins and wife, Samuel Atcherley and wife, and Charlotte Wase, spinster, for the other part. In 1819, January 9th, Charles and John Morris sell their interest to George Baylis, from whom it passes to George Bishton. In June, 1824, we have an Indenture between Sir Henry Cann Lippincott, Hon. William Middleton Noel and wife (i.e., Anne Yates), and Francis Yates of one part, and George Bishton of the other part. All these interests settle in George and Thomas Bishton.

A short series of Deeds show agreements between George Durant of Tong Castle in 1770, John Bishton, Robert Slaney, and Thomas Bishton. This was the

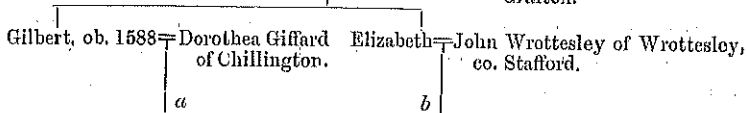
George Durant who purchased Tong Castle from the Duke of Kingston and laid out large sums of money in improving the place, and the several agreements are relative to the formation of the Convent Pool, &c.

GEORGE DURANT, purchased the Tong Castle estate from Evelyn, last Duke of Kingston, in 1762, ob. 1780. Maria, dau. of Henry Beaufof.<sup>1</sup>

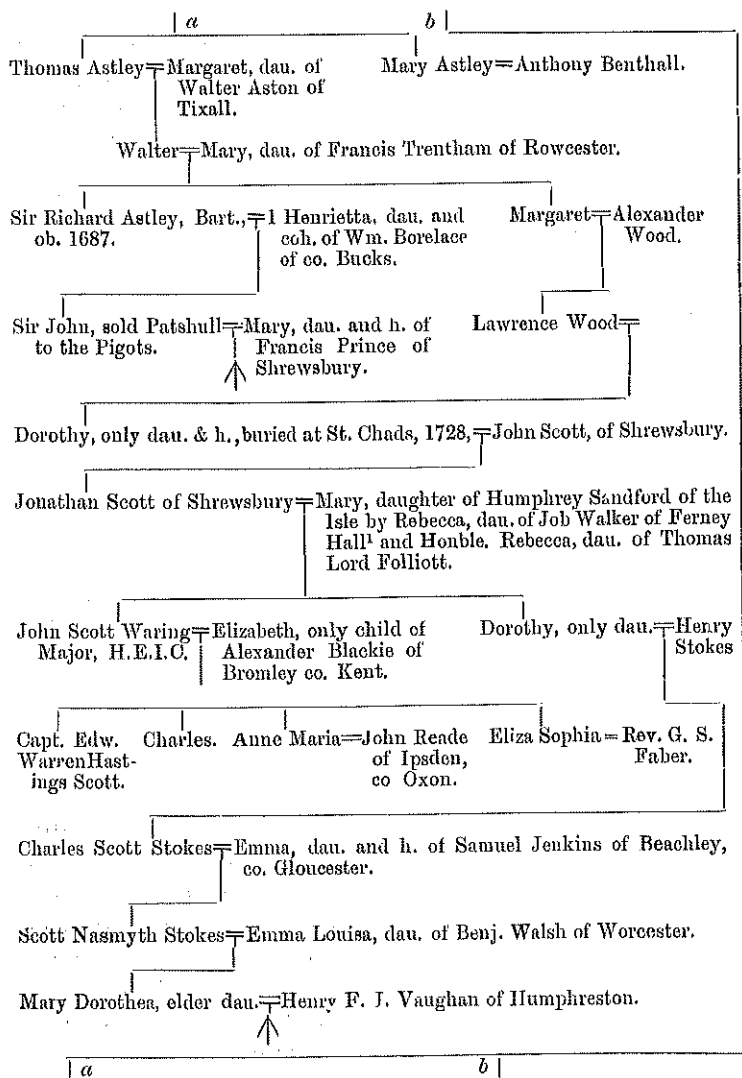


The connection of the Durants with the neighbourhood was but brief, about a century, but few families produced a greater effect. They quite changed the appearance of Tong, and though unfortunately their influence was not entirely for good, the scandals are chiefly confined to the weakness of one member of the family. From a previous pedigree it will be seen that through the Beaufofs, who are still extant in Lambeth, they were related to many of the older families of this neighbourhood, and the one beneath will show that this relationship was increased by the next alliance.

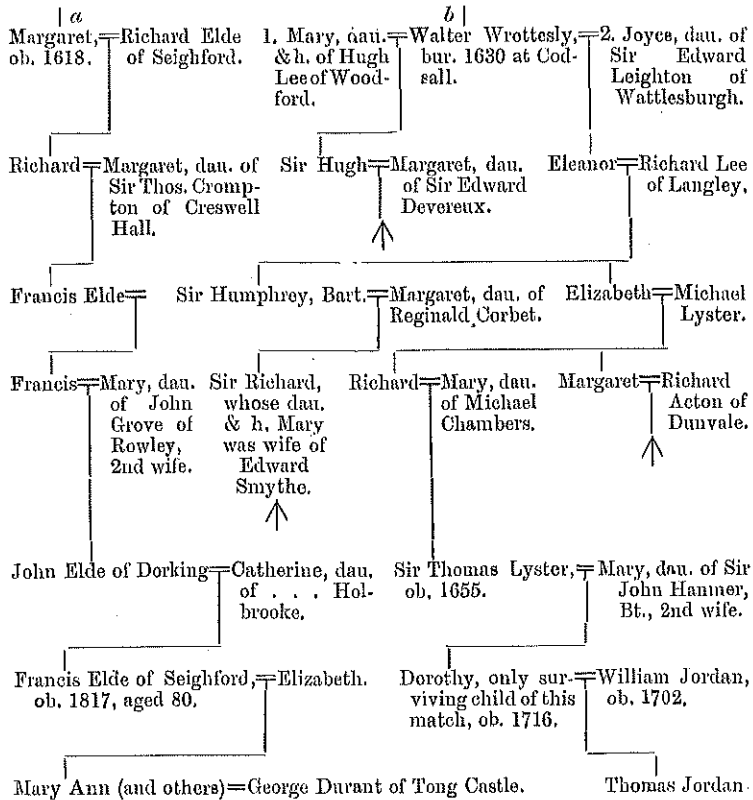
THOMAS ASTLEY of Patshull = Mary, dau. and co-heir of Gilbert Talbot of Grafton.



<sup>1</sup> Henry Beaufof married Elizabeth Jenks, whose mother Sarah was daughter and co-heir of Humperey Pitt by Sarah his wife, daughter of Edward Jordan of Priors Lee, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1720, which Edward Jordan was brother of Sarah the wife of Richard Calcott.



<sup>1</sup> Job Walker was the son of Richard Walker of Wooton, Onibury, near Ludlow, and Mary his wife, dau. of Sir Henry Herbert of Ribbesford, Master of the Revels to James I., which Sir Henry was brother of George Herbert the Poet, and also of Edward the celebrated Lord Herbert of Chirbury, they being the children of Richard Herbert of Montgomery Castle, by Magdalen his wife, daughter of Sir Richard Newport of High Ercal.



Mary Ann (and others) = George Durant of Tong Castle. Thomas Jordan.

In the foregoing pages we have traced more fully the descent of what were several distinct properties in Donington, and it will be observed that in the earlier parts we see the influence of the families of Moreton and Corbett, of Longner, and these were the chief families of the parish in more modern times. We have also shewn in a pedigree above that they were related to and descended from the older families through the marriage of Robert Moreton with Joyce, daughter of Thomas Lee, of Langley, who was grandson of Margaret, the senior co-heir of Sir Fulk Sprencheaux, Lord of Donington. The issue of this match was two daughters, co-heirs, Anne, wife of Sir Humphrey Briggs, and Jane, married in 1588 to Thomas Corbett, of Longner, the



former of whom assigned a certain portion of her interests to her uncle, Richard Moreton, of Brocton, in whose line we find the Lordship of Donington to have descended. These properties would appear to have been sold piecemeal, as was formerly often done, and so a new set of proprietors arose, who, purchasing detached portions of land wherever they were to be had, subsequently by exchanges gathered their property more into a ring fence.

The three families which, by their prudence and self-denial, obtained estates in the parish, were those of Bishton, Jellicorse, and Yates, the last of which still flourishes, but the Bishtons acquired the principal part of the Jellicorse property, and their last connection with estates in this neighbourhood appears in a Deed of 1847, when there is an agreement with George and John Jones respecting some rights. The former of these had already possessed land in the neighbourhood for several years, and the latter, his only son, was resident at Kilsall, as previously shown. They were, of course, then, comparatively speaking, new residents in this neighbourhood, George Jones being the son of a younger branch of an ancient Shropshire family, seated at Chilton since about 1450, before which time they came from Holt in Denbighshire, and earlier still from Tegaingle in Flintshire. George Jones restored the wealth of his family very opportunely at a time when the senior line at Chilton became extinct, and the older property was sold. He probably derived his hereditary genius from his grandmother's family, the Kyffins of Oswestry, one of whom was agent for Lord Bridgewater. His mother, Eleanor, daughter of William Adams, is believed to have been brought up in the faith of her mother, Eleanor Fermor, of Tusmore, a Catholic family. He married Catherine, the eldest sister and co-heir of William, Isaiah, and Daniel Turner, who died without issue, and from her family came the two rather remarkable Christian names of Ruth and Theodosia, the former probably from Ruth Leigh, wife of Edward

Turner, and the latter from the family of Ward through Catherine Jordan. She was several years older than her husband, having been born 13th July, 1775, while he was born in March, 1781, though she survived him a year, dying in 1858, and an aunt of hers, Ruth Turner, lived until within a fortnight of being one hundred years old, and was then killed by a fall.

John Jones, the only son of his parents, at an early age evinced a taste for the pleasures of hunting and shooting, and the gay society of his day. The delicate health of his father prevented him from exercising that personal supervision and control so necessary for young and ardent natures, and his mother was too fond of an only son to counteract his self-indulgence. He was a man of more than ordinary intellectual ability, well read, handsome in person, and good-natured in disposition. Unrestrained by the discipline of parental authority or the want of means, he followed the bent of his pleasures, hunting in Leicestershire, and forming friends amongst the reckless followers of the Prince Regent. At Windsor he met his future wife, who had been consigned to the care of her foster-parents living in the neighbourhood, and they were married on the 30th December, 1826. Her foster-father squandered her fortune as well as his own, and then died, but her foster-mother lived for many years in London, assisted by her foster-daughter, to whom at her death she left all she had. Mrs. Jones died at Ruckley Grange 16th February, 1866, respected and beloved by all who knew her.

It is not to be supposed that an unbridled youth is the best way of securing a happy after-life, and though some excuse may perhaps be found in the loose morals of the time, and of his friends in the neighbourhood, yet John Jones in his later days, deeply deplored the follies of his youth, and regretted at the end of his life that it was impossible to remedy the injustice which had been caused by them. There had been a misunderstanding between father and son, otherwise the Will of the

former, which was a bitter disappointment to the latter, would have been very different from what it proved to be. The Ruckley Grange estate, to which he was much attached, the Forge Pools, Ruckley Wood, and Cosford Grange, with the valuable mineral estates in Staffordshire and South Wales, were left to him, but the other estates were settled in various lines. This having been done entirely without his knowledge, John Jones had no opportunity of giving his father any explanation, or affording him information as to the several persons on whom the property was settled, nor after his death could any change be made. He had begun a more settled life in 1837, when he had at the desire of his father settled with his wife at Donington, and here in 1838 his daughter Ruth was born. In 1840 they went to reside at Kilsall, where two sons, Henry and Henwayn, the latter his favourite, were born. In the year 1851 the family removed to Ruckley Grange in the parish of Tong, where John Jones made many alterations and improvements, building the long wall there, and here on 16th February, 1866, his wife died, one of her last wishes being that she could walk once more upon the Terrace at Windsor, so great was her attachment to the place of her birth. Their eldest son, George, died at Newport, Salop, in 1864.

When the Tong Castle estate was sold by the Durant family in 1855, it was the desire of George Jones to purchase it for any sum not exceeding £200,000. John Jones, however, who did not like the place, allowed the opportunity to pass, but ever afterwards regretted it, saying that had the money been so expended, it would have been saved, whereas it, with other large sums, were lost in unfortunate American and other speculations. This greatly reduced the family, and the creditors forced a sale of the properties which belonged to John Jones, so that they were despoiled of the most beautiful part of their estate, which might, under other circumstances, have been retained. John Jones spent the latter years of his life in retirement at Donington.

He was easily influenced by those around him, and so hurried into a quarrel with his favourite son, Henwayn. With his son Henry, a clergyman at the time of his mother's death, he had quarrelled on account of religion, but an entire reconciliation took place before his death, and to him he expressed his regret at much which had passed, and his desire, if it had been possible, to rectify matters as far as lay in his power.

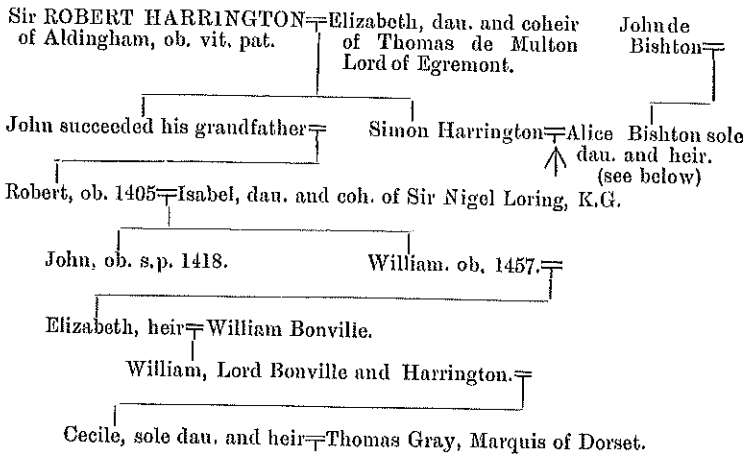
Thus, in the latter years of his life, afflicted with a lingering disease, he had time for meditation and repentance, and became kind, gentle, and thoughtful of others. That during his state of helpless paralysis he suffered much cannot be doubted, but he gained a truer estimate of life, and was mercifully prepared for his departure. At twenty minutes past five p.m. on Sunday afternoon, 8th October, 1882, he quietly breathed his last.

Thus time brought changes and trials to this family as to others, and they have no doubt suffered deeply, but still enjoy the satisfaction of feeling that they have the respect of their neighbours, and that (to use the words of one who had grown old in their service) "the family had been a blessing to the neighbourhood."

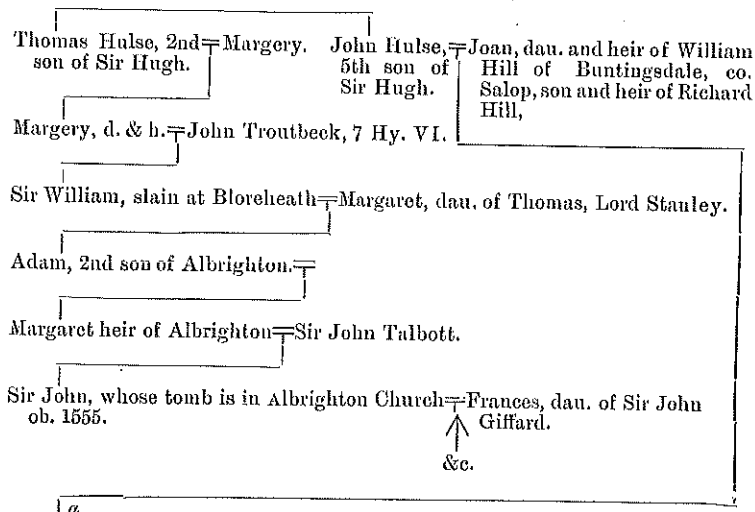
We have traced the Manor of Donington until it vested in Plowden Slaney, who was lord of it in 1771, when the Kilsall Common was enclosed. He lived at Hatton Grange, and the writer is informed that the lordship passed to the Whistons, and from them to the Bishtons, so that the Slaney interest which represented that of Moreton in the parish disappears.

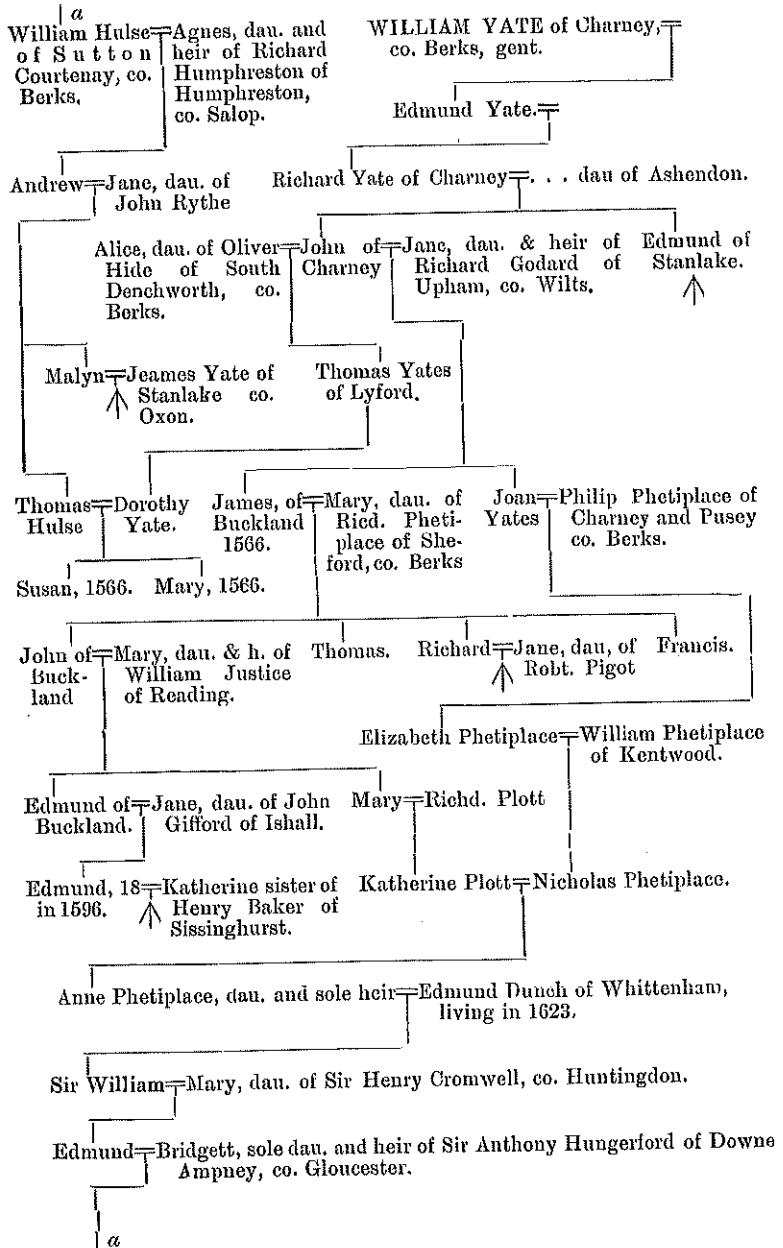
Of the three families previously mentioned, the Jellicorses, inter-marrying with the Jellicoes, probably sprang up in Donington itself. The Bishtons were originally seated in this parish on the Red House estate, and most likely came from Bishton in the neighbouring Parish of Albrighton, though that estate is said to have been carried away by the marriage of Alice, daughter and sole heir of John de Bishton, with

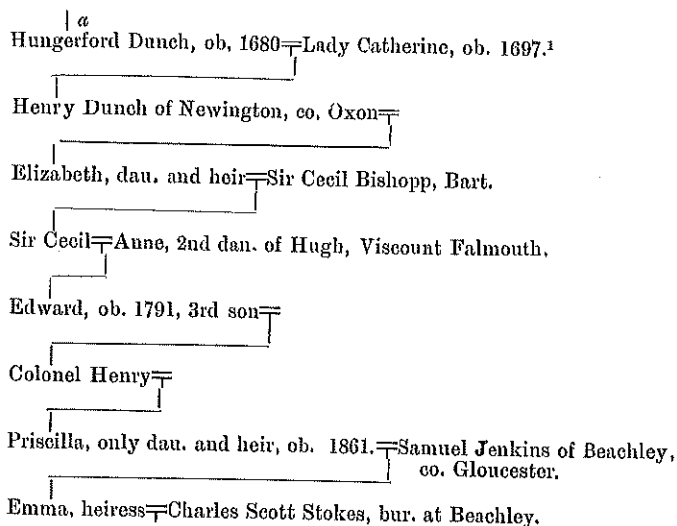
Simon, second son of Sir Robert Harrington, of Alding-  
ham, thus,—



It is very possible that the family of Yates came from Berkshire, in connection with the Giffards or Talbots, and derived from a younger son of the Berkshire family of Yate, which was certainly connected with this part of the country, as the following pedigree shews, taken from the Visitation of Berks in 1566, &c. :—



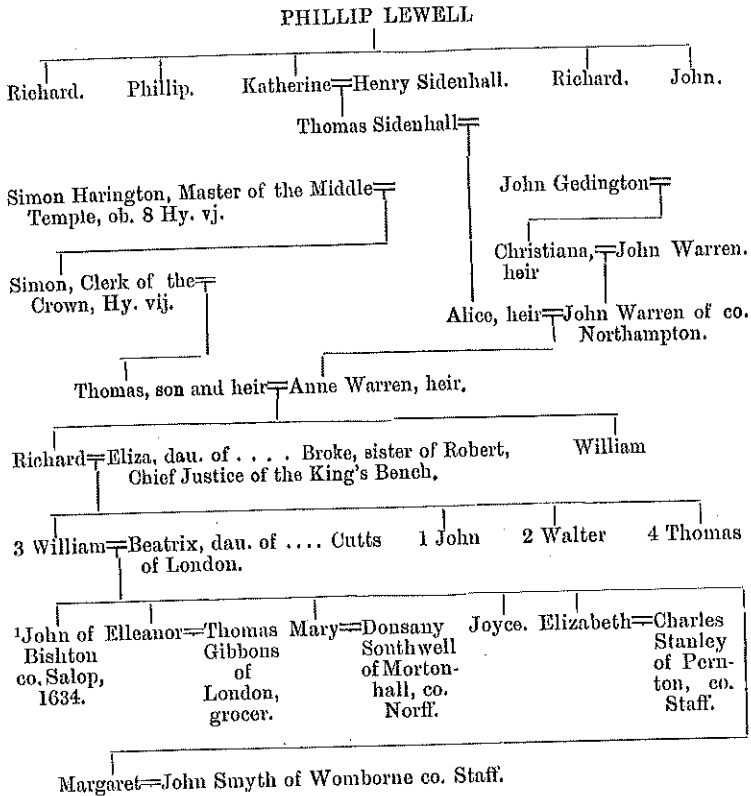




The family of Jones, of Ludstone, Claverley Parish, with whom that of Yates was allied, were also connected with Berkshire, as is shewn in Harl. MS. 6173, the Heraldic Visitation of that county for 1623, where the pedigree of Sir Francis Jones, Lord Mayor of London, son of John Jones, of Claverley, County Salop, is entered with the arms—*Az.* a lion passant guardant inter three crosses fitché *or*, and a chief of the last; and it will be remembered that this is the family connected with that of Jellico through the Whitmores of Ludstone. Pedigree of Harington, of Bishton, from Harl. MSS., 1396 and 1982:—

Omnibus Xri fidelibus ad quos hoc presens scriptum pervenit Georgius Comes Salop salutem Sciatis me pro bono consilio michi per Simonem Harington de Bysheton impenso et in posterum michi et meis heredibus impendendo dedisse ei terras in villa de Stonton infra dominium meum de Idsole als Shuffenall in Com Salop dat 22 diei mensis Decembris anno 9 Hy vij' sealed with a talbot statant.

<sup>1</sup> She died in September, 1697, (see Banks), but in another place we find that Major Dunch married Hon. Margaret, daughter of Philip, fourth Baron Wharton, by his second wife, Jane, daughter and heir of Arthur Goodwin, Esq.



Arms: *Sable* a fret *argent* on a chief of the second three trefoils slipped *vert*. Crest: A lion's head erased or collared *gu.* studs, and rope of collar *arg.* between two trefoils slipped in pale *vert*. From other Visitations we learn that the above Eliza Brooke must have been the daughter of Thomas Brooke, and Margaret, daughter of Humphrey Grosvenor, of Farncote, County Salop, though it is worthy of remark that a daughter Elizabeth is ascribed to them, who was wife of Richard Harvey, unless indeed Harvey is a misreading for Harington.

<sup>1</sup> A manuscript in the Bodleian Library says that this John married as his second wife, Katherine, daughter of Richard Wakeman, of Kelsale, and they had issue a daughter, Winifred.

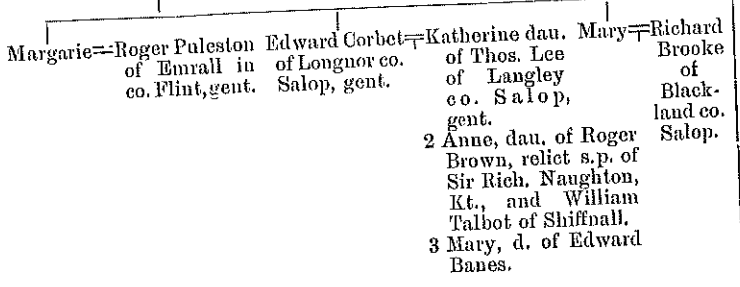


Before passing on to the Manor of Humphreston, it may be well to give the pedigree of the Corbetts of Longner, from Harl. MS. 1396, with some additions.

Edward Corbet, of Abrighton, son of John, son of Richard, of Abrighton, son of Thomas, son of William, son of Roger, son of Robert, son of William, of Abrighton, son of William, of Acley, *or* two ravens in pale in a bordure *sa.*, son of Robert, of Caus Castle, *or* two ravens in pale *ppr.*

EDWARD CORBET = . . . dau. of Poyner.

Thomas Corbet = Jane, dau. of Edward Burton of Longnorley, co. Salop.

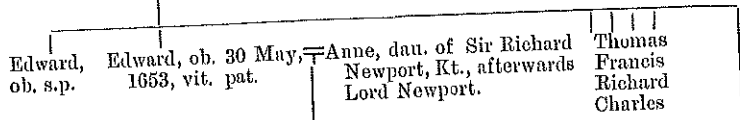
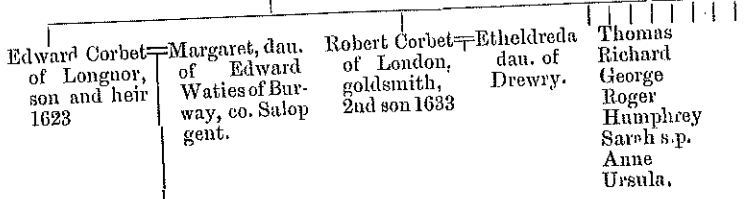


Thomas Corbet de Longnor in co. Salop, 2 son = Katherine, relict of Browne.

Thomas Corbet of Longnor = Jane, d. and coh. of Robert Morton of Haughton, co. Salop.

co. Salop, gent., 1623

Edward, 2nd son, ob. s.p.



Richard succeeded his grandfather and two daughters.

<sup>a</sup> |  
 Wates of Elton, = Margaret  
 co. Hereford, Weaver.  
 ob. 1689, bur.  
 at Leebotwood  
 28 Feb.

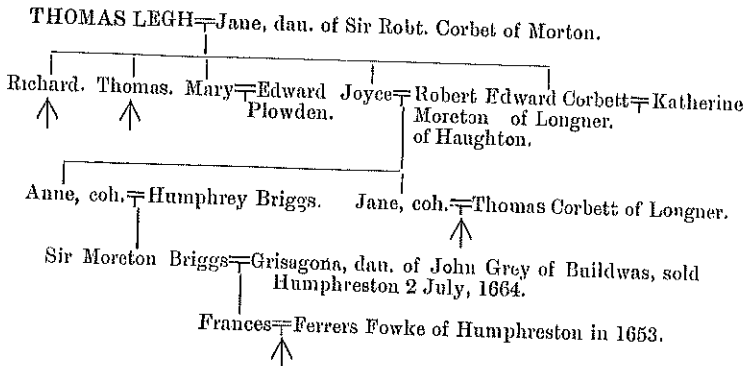
<sup>b</sup> | | <sup>c</sup>  
 Martha.  
 Anne.

<sup>d</sup> |  
 Margaret = John Matthews  
 Trefnanny.

<sup>e</sup> |  
 Mary died  
 young.

Arms. 1. *or* 2 ravens in pale *sable* in a bordure indented *gu.* bezanty. 2. *gu.* 2 lions pass<sup>t</sup> guard<sup>t</sup> *arg.* and a label of 5 points *az.* 3. Per fess *gu.* and *vert* a fess and chevron conjoined *arg.* 4. *Sa.* ensily two lions pass<sup>t</sup> in pale *arg.*

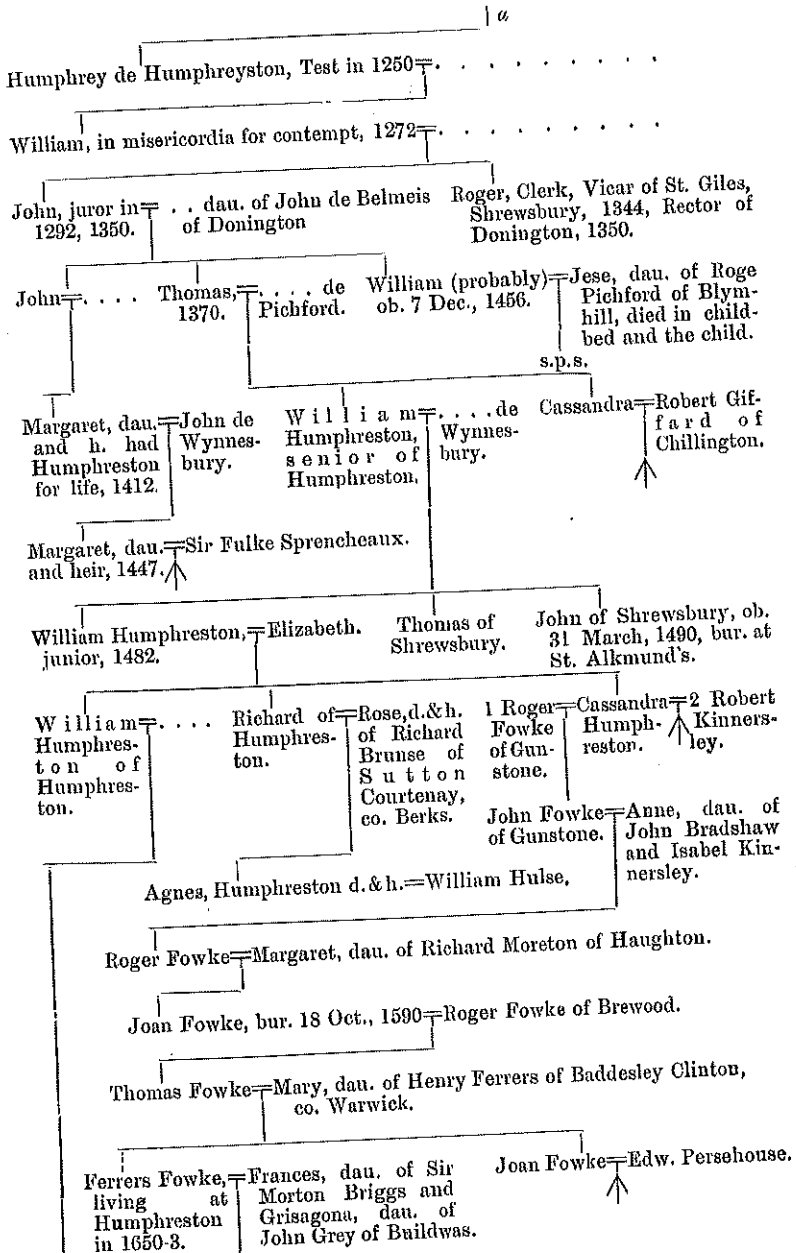
Since we shall hereinafter have to notice these connections with this family, the following slight table showing some relationships, may be useful:—

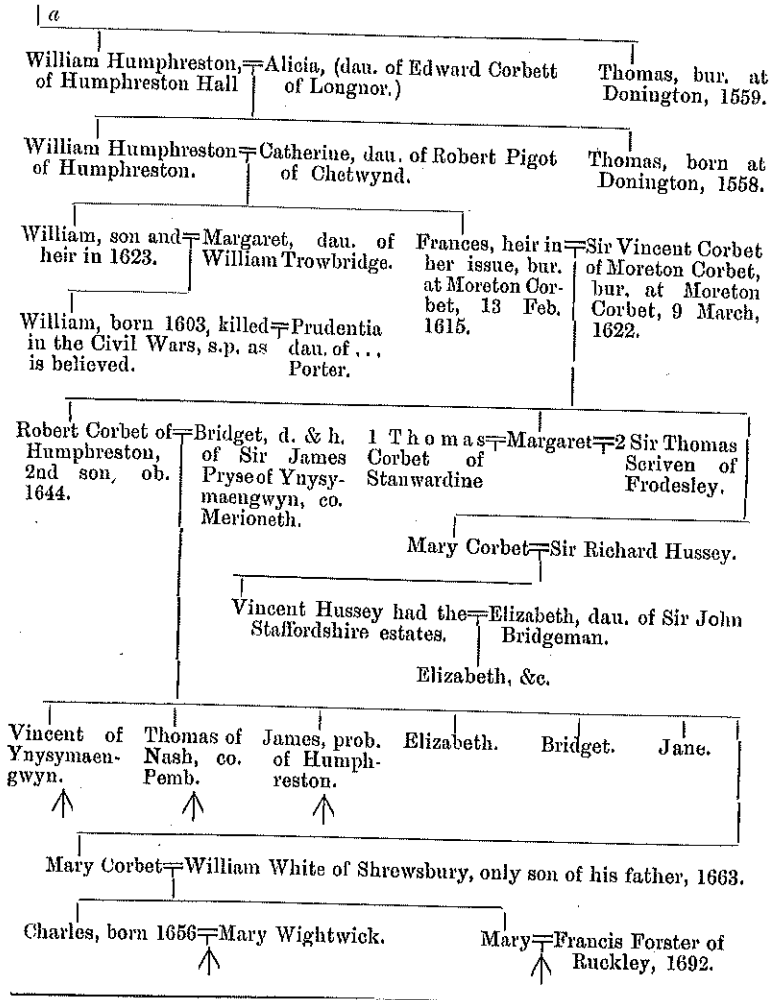


Passing on to the Manor of Humphreston, we find that by a comparison of the Deeds belonging to that estate with each other, and with other papers, a body of information is obtained which must modify to some degree the traditional history which has long been current. It will be convenient to have the pedigree of the family derived from Eyton, the Visitations of several counties, and other papers in the Bodleian Library, British Museum, &c., before us.

. . . . . de OMFREISTON. =  
 William de Omfreiston, amerced for default, 1203 = Letitia, a widow in 1221.

|  
<sup>a</sup>





NOTE.—Humphreston, Stafford MSS.—In a Deed dated at Blymhill the Monday next after the feast of St George the Martyr, 12 Hy. vj. (26 April, 1434), William Mondon, Humphrey Cotes, and Thomas Barbour, of Stafford, concede to William Homfreyston, of Homfreyston, all the lands, tenements, &c., which they have within the Lordship of Blymhill, together with the advowson of the church of the same vill., which lands, &c., with the advowson. . . they lately had of the gift and feoffment of the aforesaid William Humfreyston, to have and to hold to the said William Humfreyston, for the term of his life,

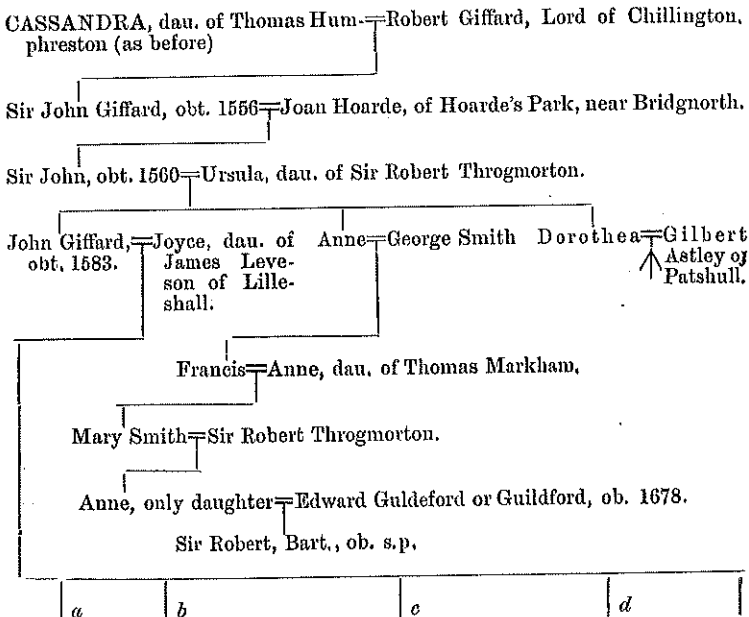
It is not to be considered that the above pedigree is exhaustive, but it shows how the Manor of Humphreston descended from the family of the same name to the Corbets of Moreton Corbet. A fuller account of some of the members here mentioned will be found in the articles on Donington, to which this forms only an appendix, but it is worthy of remark, perhaps, that Elizabeth was the granddaughter of Sir Richard Hussey, and daughter of his second son, Vincent.

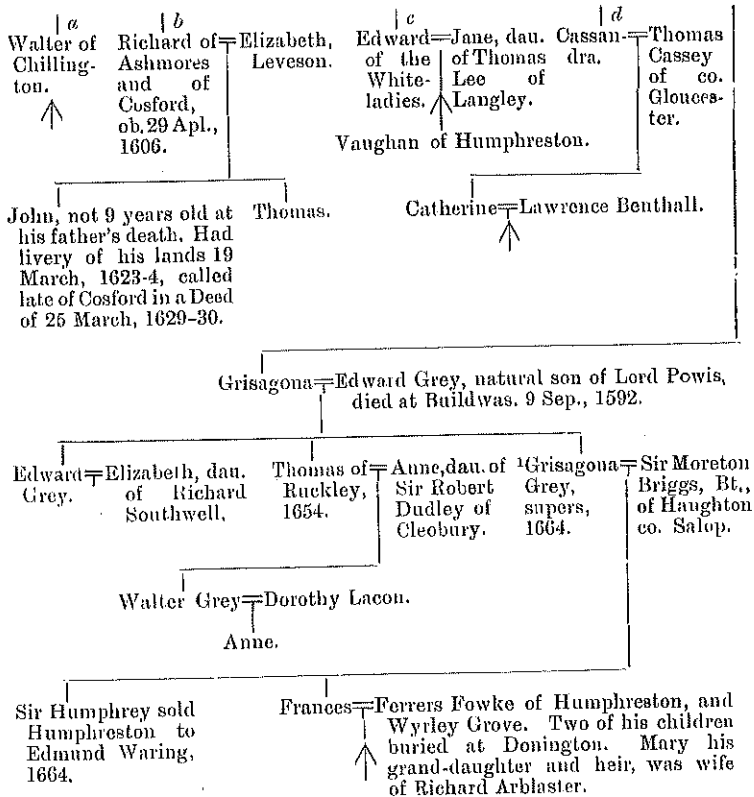
The next incident which comes before our notice is the fact that no mention of Humphreston is made in the Corbet line after Robert Corbet of Humphreston, who died in 1644, but at the next dates, which are 1650 and 1653, Ferrers Fowke was living there, and we shall see that Humphreston passed from the line of Corbet to that of Briggs or Grey, for in a Deed of January 27th, 1676, Edmund Waring, of Humphreston, in the County of Salop, recites that the said Manor or Lordship (of Humfrenston als. Humfreston) was heretofore by indenture dated July 2nd, 1664, demised by Dame Cresagon Briggs and Sir Humfrey Briggs to the said Edmund Waring. Dame Cresagon Briggs's interest in the property may only have been a settlement in dower. Sir Humfrey Briggs was her son, who was knighted in his father's lifetime, and married four times: 1. Elizabeth, daughter of Philip Cary, of Marylebone Park, County Middlesex; 2. Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Sir Richard Wilbraham, B<sup>t</sup>; 3. Anne, widow of Richard Moreton, of

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of the chief lords of that fee, by the accustomed services, and after the decease of the said William Homfreyston, they will that all the said lands, &c., &c., shall remain to the Lord Humfrey Earl of Stafford his heirs and assigns for ever, &c. The death of the said William Humfreston occurred on the Vigil of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 35 Hy. vj. (i.e., 7th Dec., 1456), as fully appears by a writing of the time of Humfrey Duke of Buckingham. From the petition of Thomas Shelley for the Blymhill lands we learn that the daughter of Pitchford, who married William Humfreyson, died in childbed of her first child, and the child also.

Montgomeryshire; and 4. Magdalen, daughter of Sir John Corbet, of Adderley. Sir Richard Wilbraham was also of Weston in this neighbourhood, by marriage with the heiress of the Mittons, and the Baronetcy became extinct in 1692 with Sir Thomas, who left issue three daughters co-heirs: 1. Elizabeth, wife of Sir Thomas Middleton, Bart, of Chirk Castle, by whom, however, she had no issue; 2. Grace, wife of Lionel, second Earl of Dysart, who left issue; and 3. Mary, wife of Richard (Newport), Earl of Bradford, who thus obtained the Weston estate. It is certain from the above quotation that the fee simple of the Manor of Humphreston vested in the family of Briggs, and though it is true that Humphrey Briggs sometimes acted as trustee for Walter Grey, yet in failure of proof that there was any sale, it seems more probable that the property passed from the family of Corbet to that of Briggs, by descent. The following shows their relationship to the Humphrestons:—





If we supposed that the Lordship and Estate of Humphreston passed by purchase to the family of Briggs from that of Corbet, this would be the first time, so far as we know, that it was sold, though it must be remembered that it is also possible that Sir Humphrey was acting for one of the Corbets, and had a lease of lives or some other such interest in the estate, since it was not unusual at that time to grant leases for three lives.

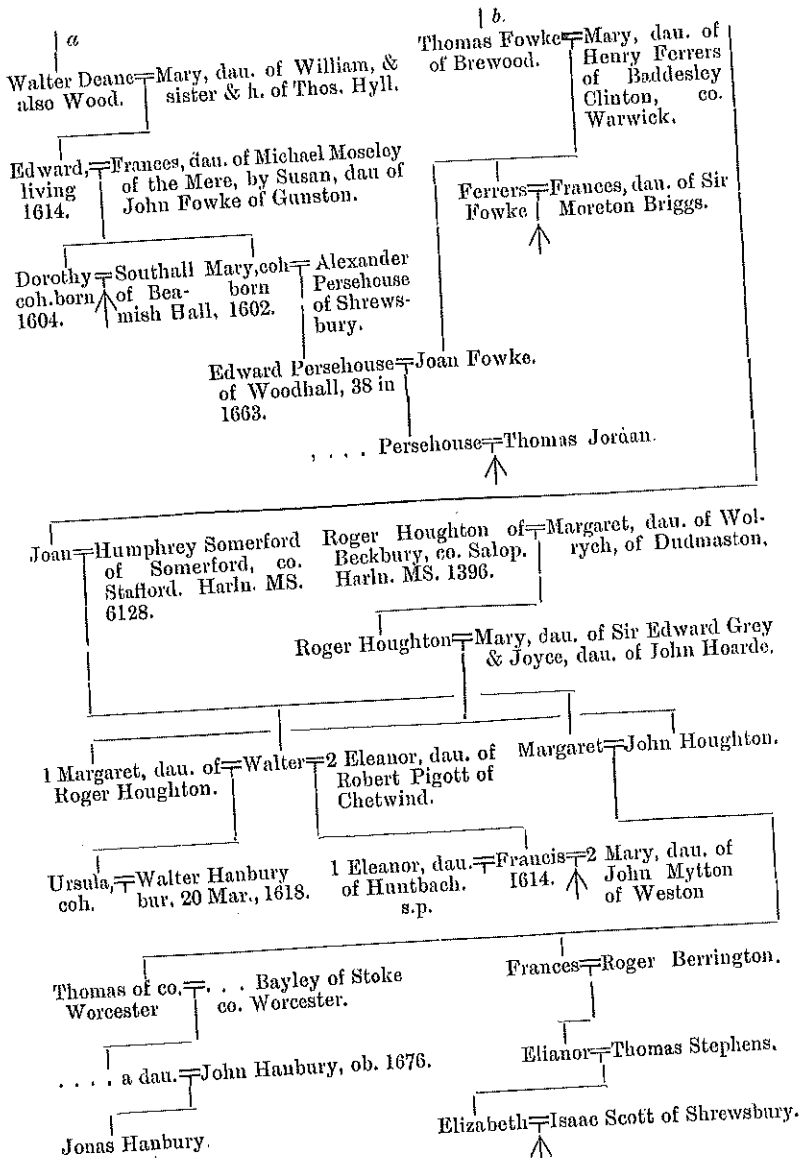
Sir Humphrey Briggs, Bart., by his wife Elizabeth Wilbraham, had issue another Sir Humphrey, who died in 1699, and who, having married Barbara, daughter

<sup>1</sup> Most probably grand-daughter as below.





FURTHER PARTICULARS OF DONINGTON.

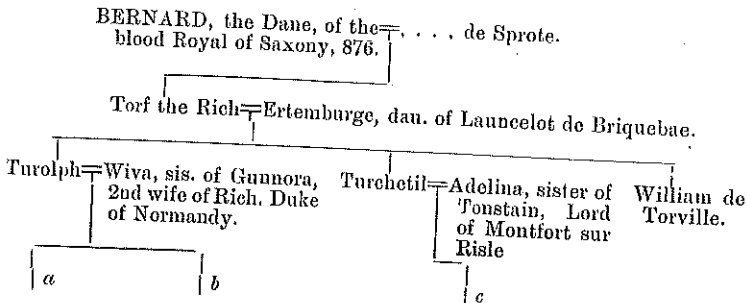


The above pedigree of Deane, taken from Harl<sup>n</sup> MSS. 1439, was drawn up by Sir William Dethicke, Garter King of Arms, and confirmed under his hand.

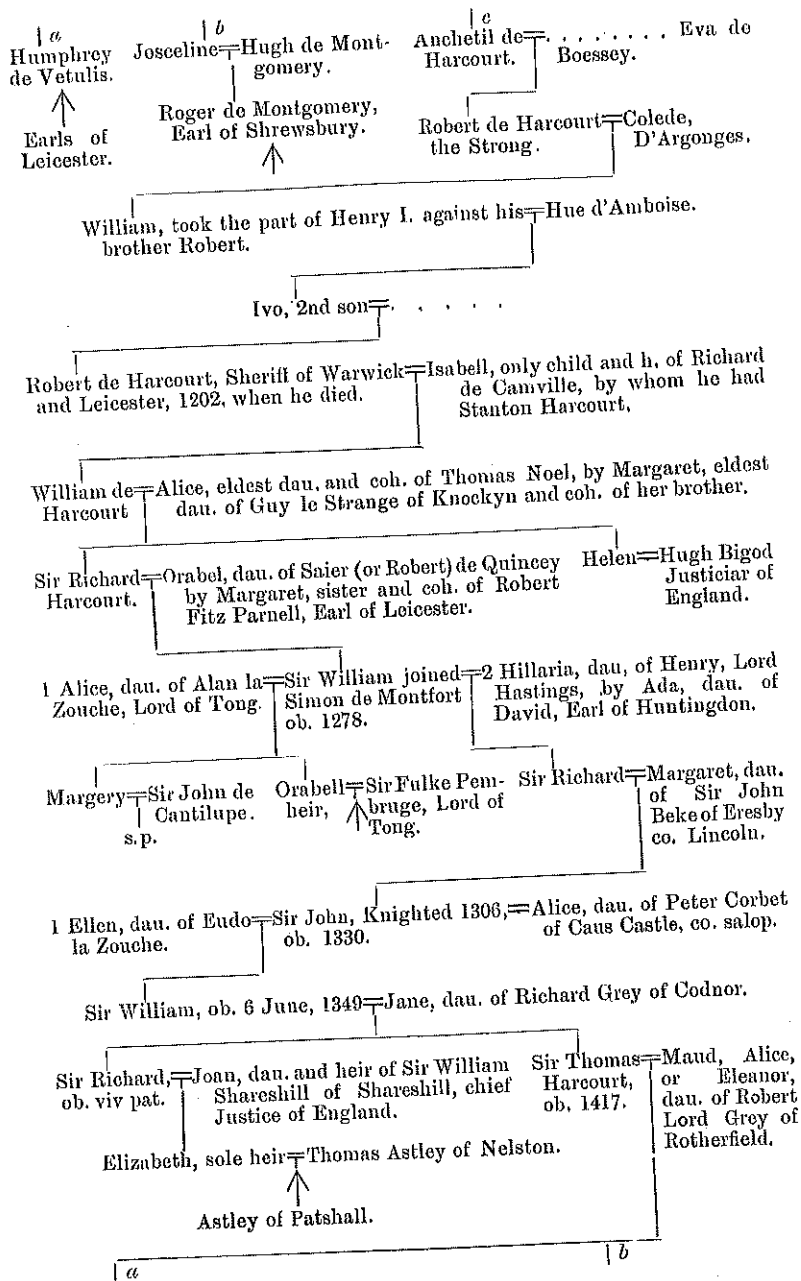
It will be remembered that Robert Pigott married Elizabeth, daughter of William Gatacre, and so their children Catherine, the wife of William Humphreston, of Humphreston, and Eleanor, the wife of Walter Somerford, of Somerford, were sisters. The half-brother and half-sister of Eleanor, wife of Thomas Stephens, viz., Thomas Berrington and Johanna Berrington, married respectively Katherine, daughter of Richard Sandford, of The Isle, and Thomas Hosier, of Shrewsbury.

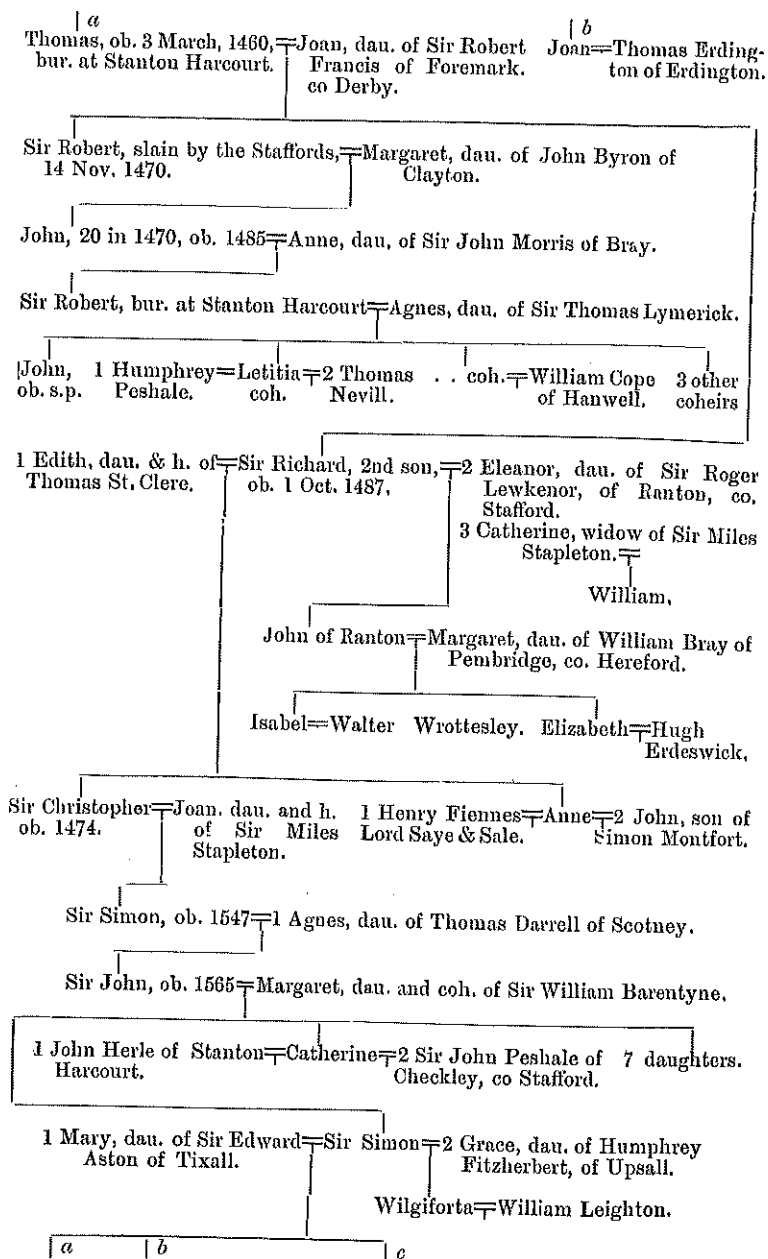
Returning to the Deane pedigree, Joyce, the daughter of Ralph Brooke, was probably of the family of Brook, of Blacklands, one of whom (whose name was not, however, Ralph), did marry a Butler of Bewsey (though not an heiress), and had a son Ralph. Mary Hyll, wife of Walter Deane, was probably of the family of Hill of Hyll, seated at Pepper Hill, in the parish of Albrighton.

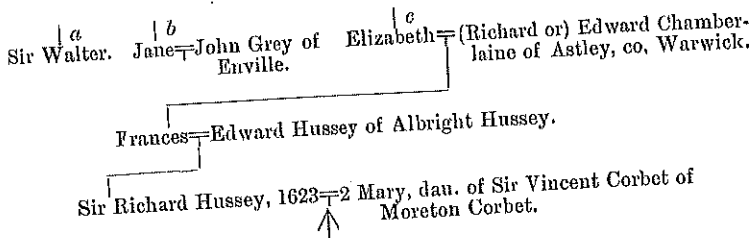
The family of Harcourt is so much connected with the earlier history of this neighbourhood, being at one time Lords of Tong and Lords of Patshall, and also, as we see above, ancestors of several other families on the borders of the counties of Shropshire and Staffordshire, that the following account may be useful. It is taken principally from the works of Collins, with additions from the pedigree at Nuneham Courtenay, and other papers and manuscripts. For the transcript from the pedigree at Nuneham Courtenay the writer is indebted to the kindness of E. W. Harcourt, Esq.



FURTHER PARTICULARS OF DONINGTON.







Thus this pedigree shows many other connections between the families of this neighbourhood in earlier times, and marks the relationship subsisting between the Humphrestons and others in Shropshire and the borders. We must now pass on to the further consideration of a Deed of Edmund Waring, dated 27th January, 1676, which is, in fact, the marriage settlement of his eldest daughter, Elizabeth Waring, with William Collemer, of Warwick, Esq., now written Colemore. Thomas Jobley, of Costen, Esq., and John Galloway, of the Inner Temple, Esq., were their trustees. In this Deed it is recited, as previously mentioned, that Edmund Waring had acquired the estate by lease and release on the 2nd July, 1664, from Dame Chrisagon Briggs and Sir Humfrey Briggs, this date, be it observed, being posterior to the restoration, and since Robert Corbet, of Humphreston died in 1644, if there be any truth in the constant local tradition that the estate was seized upon by the Warings, that event must have taken place between 1653 and 1657, when Edmund Waring was Sheriff of Shropshire, and is then denominated of Humphreston. Ferrers Fowke died at Wyrley, in the Parish of Norton Caines, in 1682, about 70 years old, disappearing somewhat suddenly from Humphreston. From the above considerations, some form and stability is given to the local tradition, the truth being that Edmund Waring, the Parliamentarian, dispossessed Ferrers Fowke, who was living here at the time of the battle of Worcester, shortly after 1653, probably about 1655, when he was appointed a magistrate for the county, and after the

restoration, made himself secure, by procuring a conveyance of the Lordship by sale to himself from the owners, who were either the Briggs family or some one employed by them, *probably* Vincent Corbet, of Ynysy-maengwyn, or his brother James.

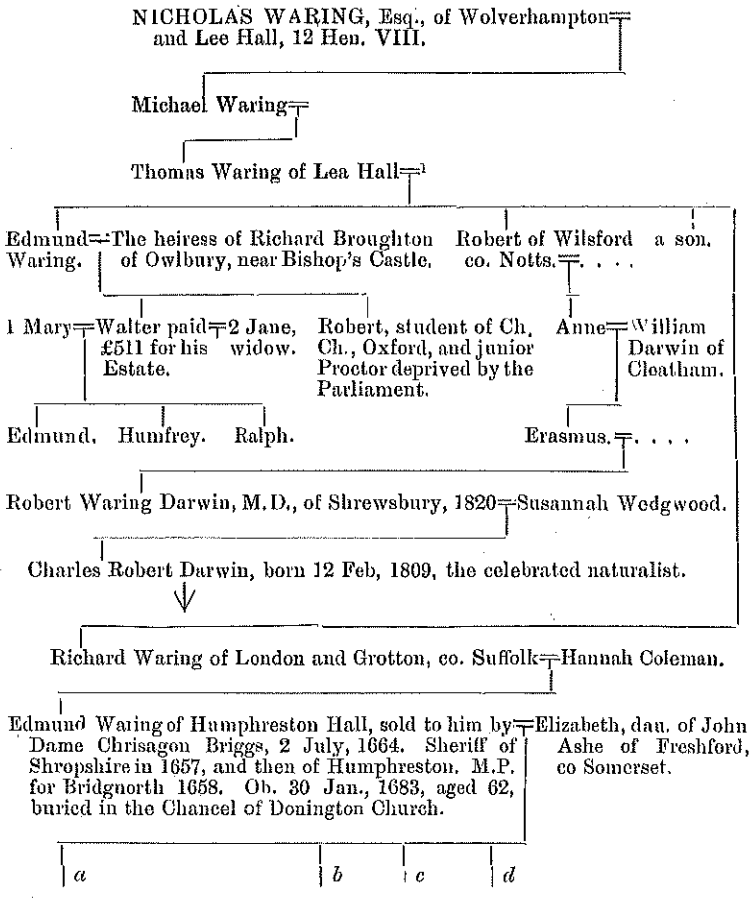
Another genealogical point comes before us. Grisagona Grey is called daughter of Edward Grey, of Buildwas, by several authorities. Now Edward Grey died in 1592, and as we have seen above, if Grisagona was his daughter, she was living in 1664, that is, she survived her father for the unusually long period of seventy two years! This in itself is sufficient to suggest that she was his granddaughter. But there are other reasons for doing this, since several manuscripts describe her as the daughter of *John* Grey, not Edward Grey, and among these is Harl<sup>n</sup> MS., 1396. Taking the Deeds of the Manor and estate, we should certainly say that in the year 1644 the Fee simple was vested in Robert Corbet of Humphreston, and that in 1664, that is twenty years later, the Fee simple vested in Grisagona née Grey and her son, Sir Humphrey Briggs. How did it descend from the one to the other, for we have no evidence of sale? Taking again into consideration that the grandparents of Grisagona on the father's side had not the Lordship, do we not naturally come to the conclusion that Grisagona was the granddaughter of the first Edward Grey, of Buildwas, and the daughter (as the MSS. have it) of John Grey, whose wife brought in the Manor of Humphreston, probably succeeding thereto as heir of James Corbet, younger son of the above Robert?

In the Deed lately mentioned we have an enumeration of lands bearing the following names:—The Lady Orchard, the Coult's Park, the Pond by the Poole Meadow, the great Poole Field, the further Poole Field, Stockwell Heath, Crowpitt Fielde, Cockshutt Meadow, Marley Mixon, Kite Meadow, the Stocking next adjoining Tyler's Coppy, the Green Land, Kilvert's House, all now or heretofore in the holding of Alice Twigg

widow of Thomas Twigg, by lease of three lives, and later in the holding of William Mason for three lives. The Manor was conveyed by Dame Chrisagon and Sir Humphrey Briggs to Walter Waring and John Parker, of Rygate, Surrey, as trustees for Edmund Waring. Mention is also made of "all that land in the occupation of John Johns, als Owen, amongst which was Donington Hill, Harbow Meadow, Common Rights, Water Furlong, the Butts or Sellions, Crabtree Furlong, Parrow Field, Hempstone Furlong, Clockfield, lying near Hillingstile, purchased by Edmund Waring from Thomas Chapman, gent., deceased. Amongst the occupiers were Walter Waring, John Barker, Richard Williams, Richard Harries, Roger Watkin, and William Barber. It further mentions Woodwall Coppice and Derbyes Coppice, situated near Stretton, a messuage called Linches, two mills under one roof, &c., in the occupation of Edward Davis, in Yockleton, "all which lordship of Yockleton, by Deed of 7th August, 17 Chas. ij., made between Matthew Morgan, Esq., Jane Waring, widow relict of Walter Waring, Esq., Edmund Waring, Esq., son and heir of the said Walter Waring, and Mary his wife, Humphrey Waringe and Ralph Waringe, gent., younger brothers of the said Edmund Waring of one part, and the said Edmund Waring (party to these presents) on the other part," were conveyed to Edmund Waring for £3,200.

The estates were entailed upon Elizabeth Waring and William Collemer and their issue, for failure of which to William Collmore, then to Hannah, sister of Elizabeth Waring and her first husband, and posterity, &c., &c. The Deed has the signatures of Edmund Waring and Elizabeth, the two first seals are gone, and the third (Parkers?) bears on a fesse between three storks or griffons heads erased three (de lis?) In connection with this is a small Deed, which mentions lands lying betwixt those of Right Hon. Charles, Earl of Shrewsbury and John Hilton, gent., and a certain parcel of land of John Southall's, called the Whitleys,

wherein a brick kiln was heretofore built, with other lands purchased by Edmund Waring from John Southall, Robert Hayward, and Roger Hickmans. The following pedigree of Colmore, taken from the Deeds, embodies much information therein contained:—

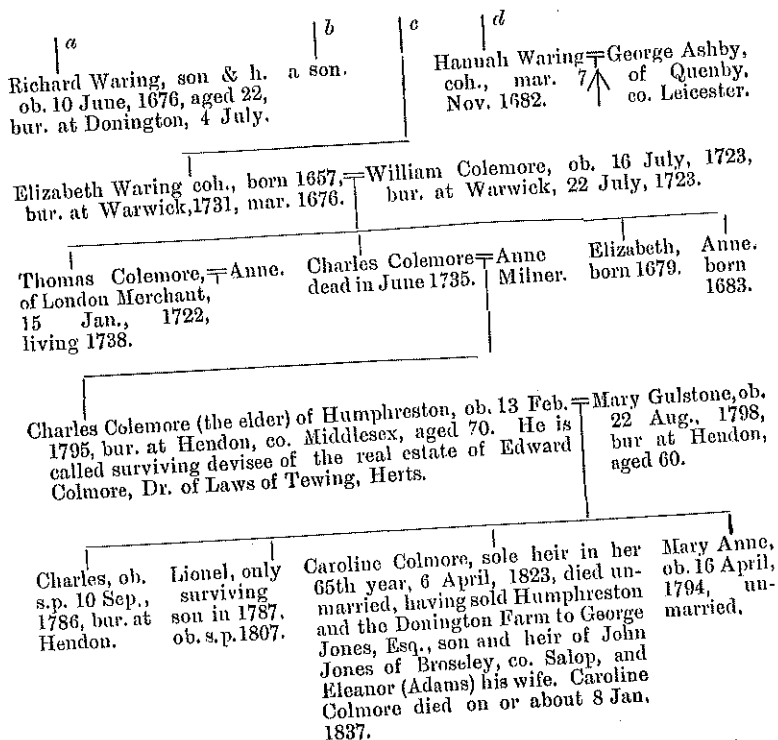


<sup>1</sup> In the Visitation of London, his wife is given, viz., Elizabeth, dau. of Walter James of Grange, Co Stafford, and he is described as of Ashmouth, Co. Stafford. Their son Richard (who signs the Pedigree) is called of "London, Grocer," and married twice, by his 1st wife, Hannah, dau. of Morgan Colmar, of London, gent., he had issue Edmund and Anne, by his 2nd wife, Anne, dau. of Sampson Sheffield of Seyton, Co. Rutland, gent., he had issue, Hannah. The arms are *sa.*, a chevron between 3 storks' heads erased at the neck, and have a martlet for difference, in the fess point.



FURTHER PARTICULARS OF DONINGTON.

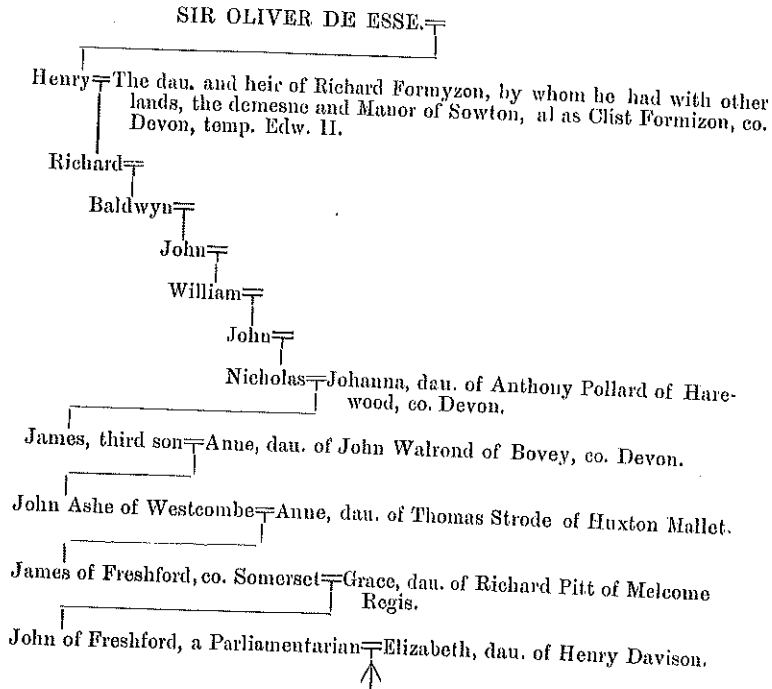
51



But we have not yet finished with Edmund Waring. He had become possessed of the Rectory of Albrighton, which had been granted in the thirty-eighth year of Henry viij's reign to John Slaunynge and Anthony Butler, and this he sold on the 6th of May, 1665, to the Haberdashers' Company (leaving his own lands tithe free) for the sum of £830 10s., which was paid to him out of moneys left by Dame Wild for that purpose, in her Will, dated 12th February, 20 James. The Right Hon. Sir John Lawrence, Knight, Lord Mayor of London, acted upon the part of the Haberdashers' Company.

A few words now as to the wife of Edmund Waring, Elizabeth, daughter of John Ashe, of Freshford, County Somerset. The following pedigree is taken from Harl<sup>n</sup> MS., 1141, Visitation of the County of Somerset in

1623, with some few particulars added from other sources of information :—



Arms of Ashe, Aysshe, or Esse, 1. *Argt.*, 2 chevrons *sa.*, 2. *Vert.* a lion rampant *argt.*, 3. *gu.* a cross *erm.* (Canys), 4. *sa.* a fess, and in chief two mullets *arg.*

The marriage of Edmund Waring with Elizabeth Ashe is not given in the Visitation, which indeed, probably, does not come to a sufficiently late period, but we know that Edmund Waring was born in 1620, and the latest entry in the Visitation is that of William Ashe, aged 3, in 1623, which William was second cousin of John Ashe, the Parliamentarian, but of a younger branch of the family; Edmund Waring's wife, we may therefore fairly conclude, was the daughter of John Ashe, the Parliamentarian, and Elizabeth Davison, but by what right the arms are placed upon the monument in Donington Church, quarterly, with those of Waring is

an entirely different matter, since this John Ashe left several sons, the third of whom, Edward, succeeded to Freshford, and left issue a daughter, nor indeed would Edmund Waring ever have had the right to quarter his wife's arms, according to the laws of Heraldry, which, however, are sometimes treated by the unlearned with such disrespect that we have heard of a natural son putting up the arms of his father's family quartered with those of his own wife, who had no right to any arms whatever. With respect to the tenants under the Colmores, we find among the earliest, James Tomkinson and William Dudley, and in 1775, Charles Colmore, of Wimpole Street, Esq., in 1770, grants a lease of twenty-one years to James Boulton, wherein he is described as Charles Colmore, of Birmingham, Esq. This lease is interesting as stating the manner of farming at that date. The witnesses are William Yates and Samuel Lott, and we may here quote the statement of Thomas Pearce, of Sydnall, who, speaking of the tenants of Humphreston and Donington farm, says that they were in the occupation of James Boulton, who died about 1808, and was succeeded by his son John, who died about 1825, and his son John succeeded. The Donington Farm was occupied by George Sutton, deceased, for about twenty seven years, up to 1835, and for twenty years previously to George Sutton's tenancy, it was occupied by John Boulton and William Dudley. The Donington Farm is frequently called Sutton's Farm, from the tenant, and subsequently the Blue House.

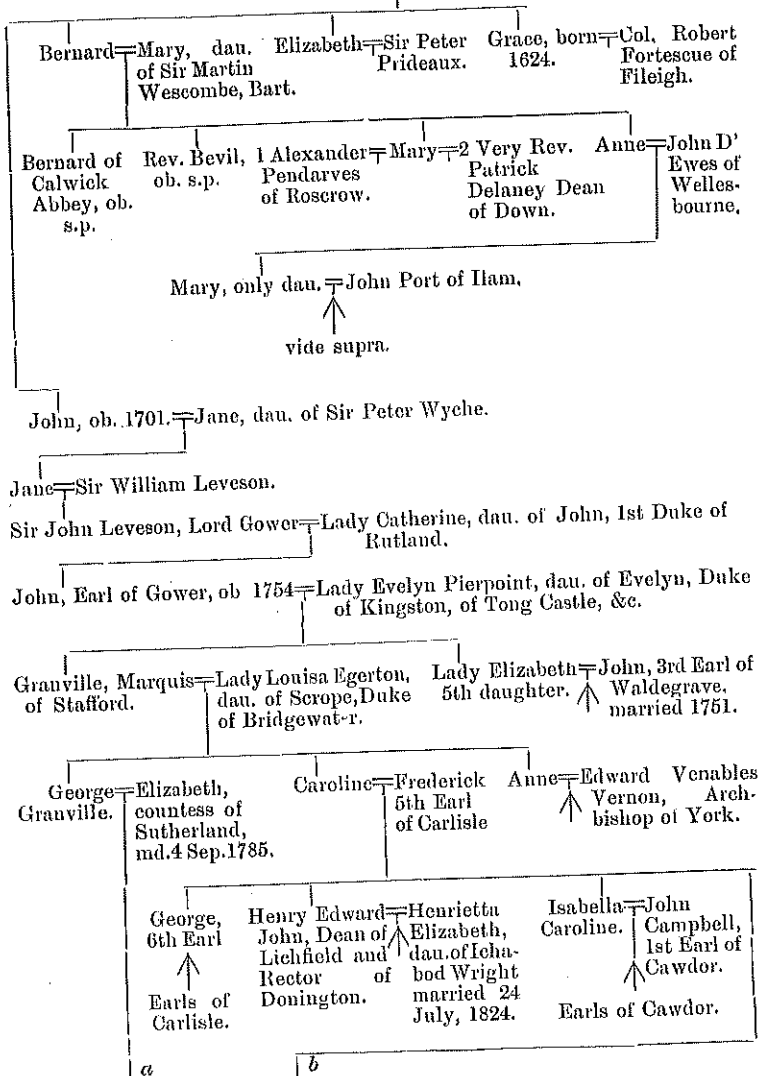
While speaking of this portion of the estate, it is to be noticed that there was a strip of land running from the road to Humphreston, across to the glebe, and having on it two dwelling houses, at that time in the occupation of Edward Nickolds and Robert Ore. The cottages remain at the present day, one forming a lodge to the drive to the Blue House. This land was conveyed by a Deed of 29th September, 1799, from John Bishton, Esq., of Kilsall, to Lionel Colmore, Esq., of

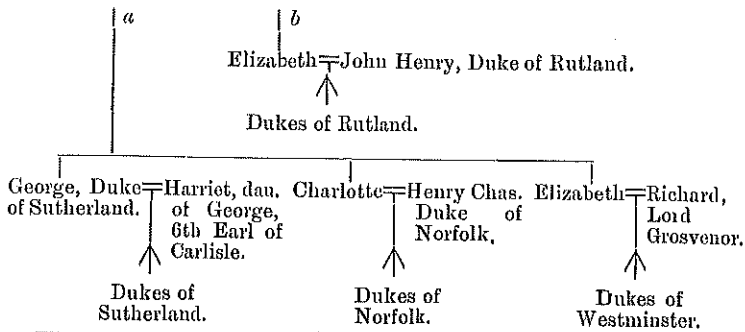
Upper Seymour Street, Portman Square, London, and John Wilkes Unett, of Birmingham, acted as trustee for the said Lionel Colmore. This piece of land was conveyed by James Northall and Doritheus Twigg in 1599 to Benjamin Twigg, whose Will was proved on the 25th August, 1728. On 18th May, 1745, Sarah Twigg buys up the several interests of the various members of her family in this land, and on the 31st December, 1745, Robert Aglionby Slaney, Lord of the Manor of Donington, frees certain lands of dues and heriots, in consideration of five guineas paid to him by Sarah Twigg. She subsequently married, and her Will as Sarah Griffiths, widow, late Sarah Twigg, is proved on 3rd November, 1770, and on the 30th January, 1790, John Gregory, of Montreal, in Canada, Merchant, and Sibby, otherwise Isabel, his wife, of the first part, Thomas Mallet, of the Island of Jersey, Merchant, and Mary his wife (late Mary Percy), of the second part, convey these lands to John Bishton, Esq., and his trustee, John Cuxon, of Basinghall Street, London, gent. This Deed bears a seal with the arms of Bishton.

We have next a Certificate of the Redemption of the Land Tax, given to Lionel Colmore by Joseph Carless and Edward Harries, then Commissioners for the same, and also an account of the Act of Parliament for the enclosure of Kilsall Common, wherein it is stated that Plowden Slaney is Lord of the Manor of Donington, George Butt, Rector, and Granville Leveson, Earl Gower, Patron, and that the proprietors of the Common lands were Plowden Slaney, Charles Colmore, and Thomas Fitzherbert, Esqrs., John Bishton, William Jellicorse, William Yates, William Bishton, Thomas Jellicoe, John Smith, Joseph Hawkes, Elizabeth Rushton, Orlando Stubbs, Doritheus Twigg, John Rowley, Sarah Griffiths, and Thomas Pidgeon. The Commissioners are Thomas Weston, of Warwick, John Dutton, of Beckbury, and John Oatley, of Bishton. This enclosure, having taken place in 1770, gives a very good

account of the several landowners at that date. We give some notes from the Granville pedigree, showing further relationships among some connected with Donington.

Sir BEVIL GRANVILLE of Stow and Bideford, born 1595, ob. 5 July, 1643. — Grace, dau. of Sir George Smythe of Matford, near Exeter.



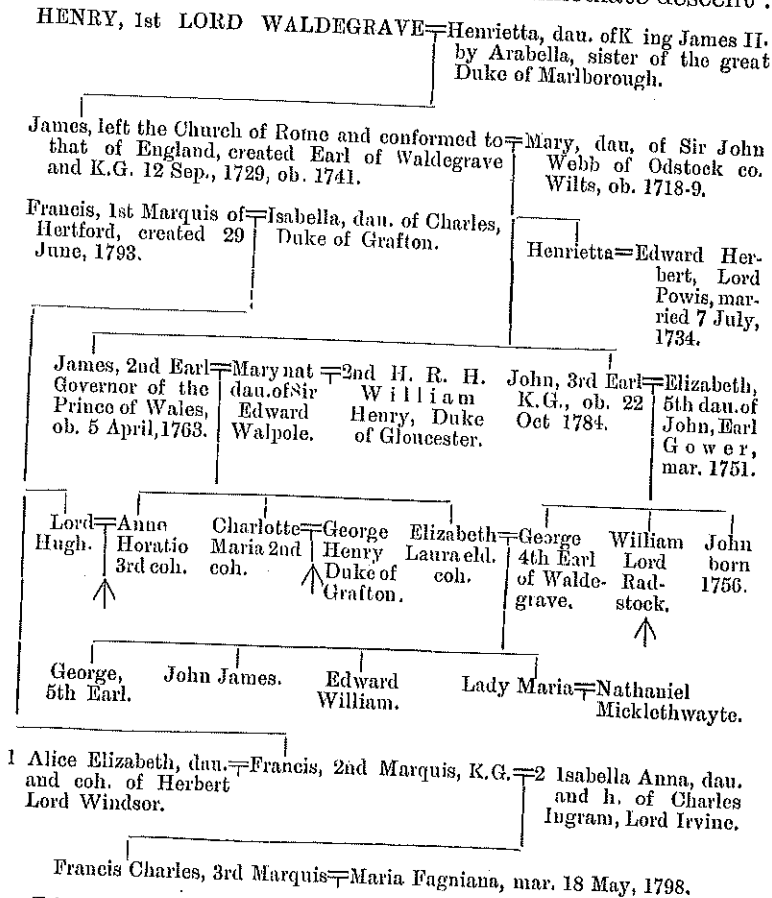


Various interests had been created in these estates at different times by the Colmores, but these were collected into one when Miss Colmore became sole heir, and a Deed exists with this object, signed by the Marquis of Hertford, Caroline Colmore, Frind Colmore, George Barker, William Price, and Ann Pidcock. Lord Hertford seals with a shield surrounded by a garter, and surmounted by his coronet; George Barker, as before, with a moor holding a shield, &c.; Price has a leopard's head caboshed; the others use gem seals. It is recited that Frind Cregoe took the name of Colmore by Royal Licence in July, 1835.

There was an old settlement of these lands in favour of Mary, wife of Charles Colmore, then to Charles Colmore, then to Lionel (under his trustees, Horace St. Paul and Sylvester Douglas), then to his issue male, afterwards to Francis Seymour Conway (first Marquis of Hertford) and Henry Seymour Conway, afterwards to Marianne Colmore, then to Caroline Colmore. Lord Hertford gained an interest in the estate, as before observed, under Charles Colmore's will, wherein, under certain reservations, he desires that the whole of his property should go "To my dear Francis Lord Hertford, or to his son, now Lord Yarmouth, if either of them should be then living, and this I do not only as a mark of my own attachment and affection to Lord Hertford, but in testimony of my dear Marianne's invariable affection for her admired and beloved friend, Lady Hertford."

In a lease granted in 1810 by Caroline Colmore to James Boulton, drawn up by Barker and Unett, of Birmingham, she is called Caroline Colmore of Teddington, Co. Middlesex; this, however, is crossed out, and Barwood Park, Co. Surry, put instead.

The following is Lord Hertford's immediate descent:



Little remains to be said of this Manor, but an interesting schedule of Deeds is given, which contains allusions to others connected with it. In a Deed of January, 1722, mention is made of William Somerville and John King Atley, alias Whitwick, Esq., the Hon.

Robert Digby and William Peyto, Esq., and Robert Moore. In a Deed of April, 1735, are mentioned John Salter (afterwards Sir John Salter, Knight.), Thomas Lane, Robert Brooke, and Thomas Salter. In a Deed of 2nd May, 1783, Charles Colmore the younger is described as of Christ Church College, Oxford, and in the same document is mentioned Rev. Newton Ogle, D.D., Dean of Winchester. Next year we find that the Right Hon. Philip Earl of Chesterfield and Alan Swainston had interests here. It appears by a Deed of 17th May, 1821, that Lord Chesterfield survived Alan Swainston, but was dead at that date when he was represented by his executors, viz., Right Hon. John Thynne, commonly called Lord John Thynne, of Hill Street, Berkeley Square, Arthur Stanhope, of Tilney Street, Esq., and Peter Hill, of Lincoln's Inn. In 1822, Stephen Dawson and Hon. Philip Pusey are mentioned. Somewhat later we have Sir John Chetwode, Alexander Milne, Henry Hales Hutchinson, Esq., and Harriet, his wife, formerly Harriet Douglas, Elizabeth Gulston, who was related to Charles Colmore's wife, Henry Dawson, the administrator of the Will of Stephen Dawson, and George William Rowley. Some of these Deeds are sealed with the device of a griffon's head erased, with a hand in its mouth. These are, of course, the arms attributed to Pelinor, the father-in-law of Caradoc Vreichvras, but no importance can be attached to their use, since Caroline Colmore, Cregoe Colmore, and George Jones, all use this seal. Barker uses the moor, and Price a leopard's head.

The Dawsons were probably friends of the Colmores, since George Lionel Dawson, son of the first Earl of Portarlington, married Mary Georgiana Emma, daughter of Lord Hugh Seymour. The Deeds show pretty plainly that the Colmores, though lords of Humphreston, lived away from the neighbourhood, sometimes in Warwick, sometimes in Birmingham, and latterly in London. They were people of position and fashion, though the habit of describing persons in Deeds by



certain of their occupations, or matters with which they were connected, gives an illusory idea of their true standing. The Colmores form a link between the times of the civil war and the present day. From the last of them, the Lordship and estate of Humphreston, and the Donington Farm, passed to the forefather of the present possessor, who represents the family of Chilton Grove, though the older name has been resumed. One of the Deeds gives a long list of the rights and privileges of the Lords of the Manor, such as to hold Courts Leet and Courts Baron, infangthief, outfangthief, right to felons' goods, &c., &c., which shows that they had formerly considerable power in their jurisdiction, though this has passed away with other remnants of feudalism.

Little remains to be said of this Manor, except that a dispute arose as to the disposal of the Donington Farm under the will of the late George Jones, Esq., and an action was begun by a neighbouring landowner against the present Lord of the Manor to dispossess him of this property, and after considerable expense, in order to avoid prolonged and ruinous litigation, a compromise was effected, by which the Donington Farm was torn from its parent estate, and a sum of money in lieu thereof was paid to the Lord of Humphreston.

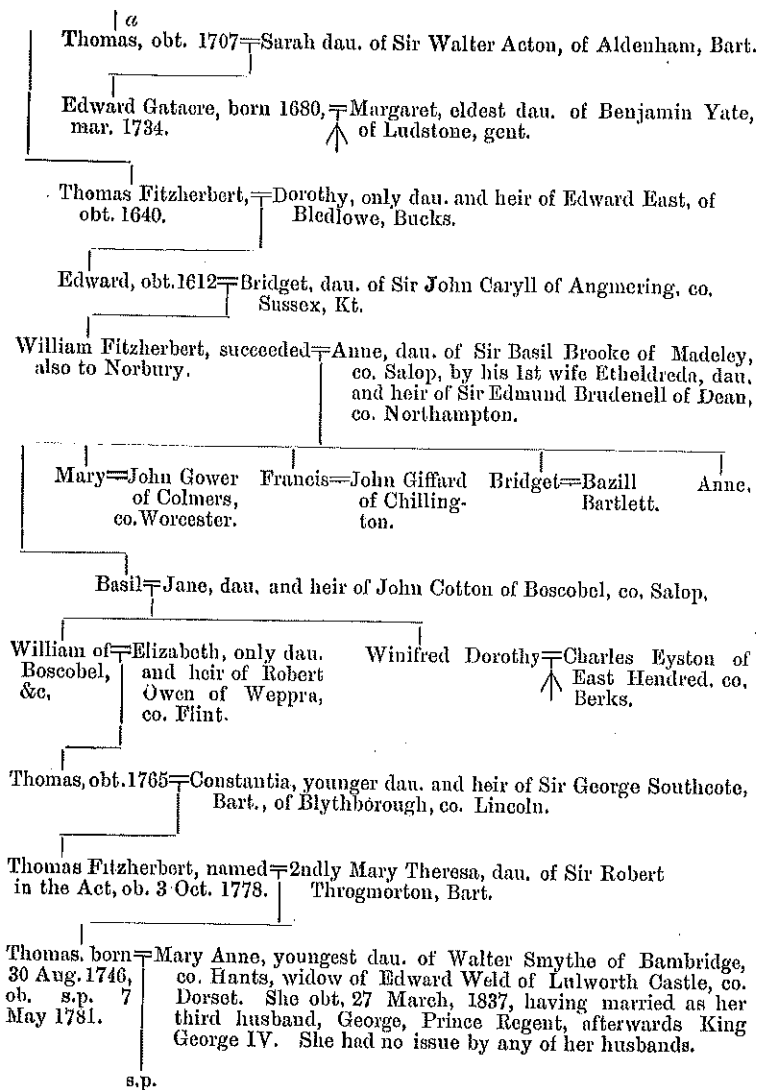
The third name among the chief landowners of Donington mentioned in the Act of Parliament for the enclosure of Kilsall Common is that of Thomas Fitzherbert, and this name again connects the parish with English history; the immediate descent is thus:—

WILLIAM, third son of Sir ANTHONY FITZ-HERBERT, Judge of the Common Pleas.	= Elizabeth, younger co-heir of Humphrey Swynnerton, of Swynnerton.	= 2nd. John Gatacre, of Gatacre, co. Salop.
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William Gatacre, ob. 1615 = Anne, dau. and heir of Jerome Corbet.

John, obt. 1667 = Mary, dau. of Wm. Polwhcle, of Polwhcle, co. Cornwall.

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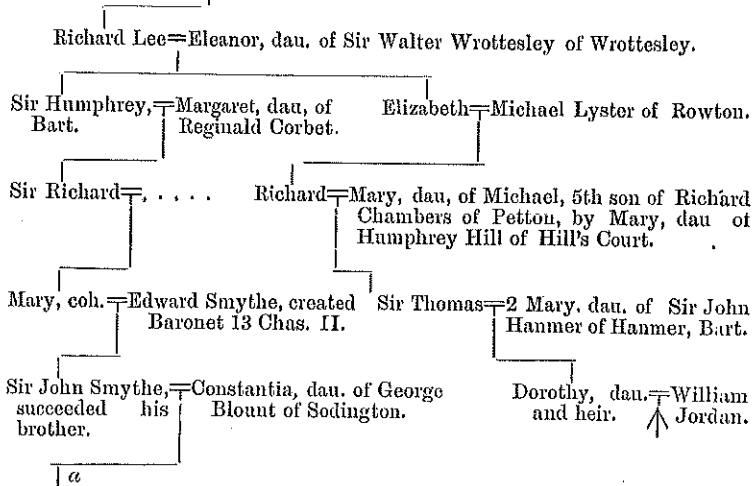


This eminent lady, who was born in the red room at Tong Castle, in 1756, married as her first husband, in 1775, Edward Weld, of Lulworth, and he dying without issue, she married secondly, in 1778, Thomas Fitzherbert, of Swynnerton, as above, who, dying on 7th

May, 1781, she obtained a third consort in the heir to the throne, George Prince Regent, but left no issue by any of her husbands. Though this has been controverted, she is stated to have been Prince George's true wife; yet this also has been questioned, some difficulty arising in verifying the first lady with whom that illustrious person entered into matrimony. Certainly she was not the last, and by other alliances he left issue, though he did not use his higher position, like his brother, to give titles to his children. Thus, amongst others, he was allied with a granddaughter of the third Earl of Waldegrave, by whom he had a daughter, brought up at Windsor under the care of one of the household. Mrs. Fitzherbert bore her exalted and difficult position with great temperance and tact, though severely tried by the natural flightiness of her husband, and the exigences of State which required him to marry a foreign princess.

Her connection with Donington is not solely as the wife of Thomas Fitzherbert, but she was descended from the older lords of the place, as her pedigree shows.

THOMAS LEE of=Jane, dau. of Sir Robert Corbet and Elizabeth, dau. of Langley (as before). Sir Henry Vernon, of Tong Castle.



$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} a \\ \text{Walter 2nd son.} \end{array} \right. \text{---} \text{Mary, dau. of John Errington, son and heir of Thomas Errington of Errington and Beaufront, co. Northumberland.}$   
 $\text{Mary Anne} \text{---} \text{1 Edward Weld.}$   
 $\text{s.p. 2 Thomas Fitzherbert.}$   
 $\text{3 George, Prince Regent.}$

We naturally pass on from the consideration of the Manor of Humphreston, which may now be said to have returned to the descendants of its former lords after the extinction of the Waring family and its representatives there, to an estate which, though formerly distinct, has now been partially incorporated therewith, pausing, however, by the way to remark a fact noted by F. Benthall, Esq., F.S.A., viz., that William Humphreston, Esq., was a collector of subsidy in conjunction with Robert Benthall and others in 1496-7.

The Meeson estate consists of several portions derived from different sources. The earliest belonged to John Cooke, and consists of the Wheat Leys, now called Whitleys and Whitley Bank, the Riddings, the Wall Field, and the Upper and Lower Long Lea. These are all now incorporated in the Humphreston Hall Estate, and came from John Cooke to John Meeson by descent thus :—

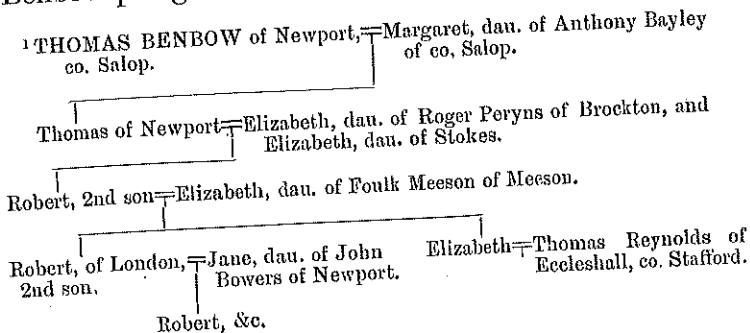
JOHN COOKE --- Probably dau. of Robert Benbow.

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graph TD
    JC[JOHN COOKE] --- PDP[Probably dau. of Robert Benbow]
    JC --- E1[Elizabeth, coh.]
    JC --- A1[Anne, coh.]
    JC --- M1[Mary, coh.]
    E1 --- R1[Richard Reynolds]
    A1 --- TF[Thomas Fallowfield, 1704.]
    M1 --- W[Walter Woodcock.]
    R1 --- E2[Elizabeth, coh.]
    R1 --- M2[Margaret, coh.]
    R1 --- D[Dorothy (Dolly), coh.]
    TF --- T[Thomas Meeson.]
    M1 --- H[Mary, coh.]
    H --- He[Heley, coh.]
    T --- R[Richard.]
    T --- J[John.]
  
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A Deed of Thomas Fallowfield in January, 1714, mentions his brother-in-law, Richard Reynolds, and also Joseph Yates and John Ashwood, and another of March, in the same year, is a partition of the lands between the three brothers-in-law, Richard Reynolds, Thomas Fallowfield, and Walter Woodcock. The Will

of Richard Reynolds is dated 3rd August, 1744. In July, 1771, the co-heirs of Richard Reynolds, viz., Thomas Meeson and wife, Elizabeth Reynolds, Margaret Reynolds, and Mary Heley, come to an agreement with William Wightwick. They were apparently then old people, for Elizabeth Reynolds' Will is dated 1st Sept., 1784, and that of Thomas Meeson, with a codicil, 12th January, 1795. In August, 1798, we have a Deed, which is interesting from the names contained therein, viz., Richard Meeson, John Meeson, Dolly Meeson, Margaret Reynolds, Thomas Parsons, and John Benbow. This Thomas Parsons was dead in 1849, leaving a son of the same name, who enters into an agreement with the two Meesons in 1820. But the name of Benbow recalls the celebrated Admiral, of whom Shropshire is proud, and thus connects this neighbourhood with him, just adding an incident of interest, in the same manner that the entry in the pedigree of Acton of Aldenham, of the marriage of John Careless or Carles, of Albrighton, with Jane, daughter and co-heir of Fulke le Strange, of Betton Strange, brother of Hamon, connects this place with one who supported his Sovereign's head when overwhelmed by misfortune in the same neighbourhood. The following short extract from the Benbow pedigree may be of interest :—



From John Meeson the property passed by purchase to

<sup>1</sup> The family of Benbow is also connected with the neighbourhood of Wenlock.

the late George Jones, and so by will and descent this part passed to the present owner.

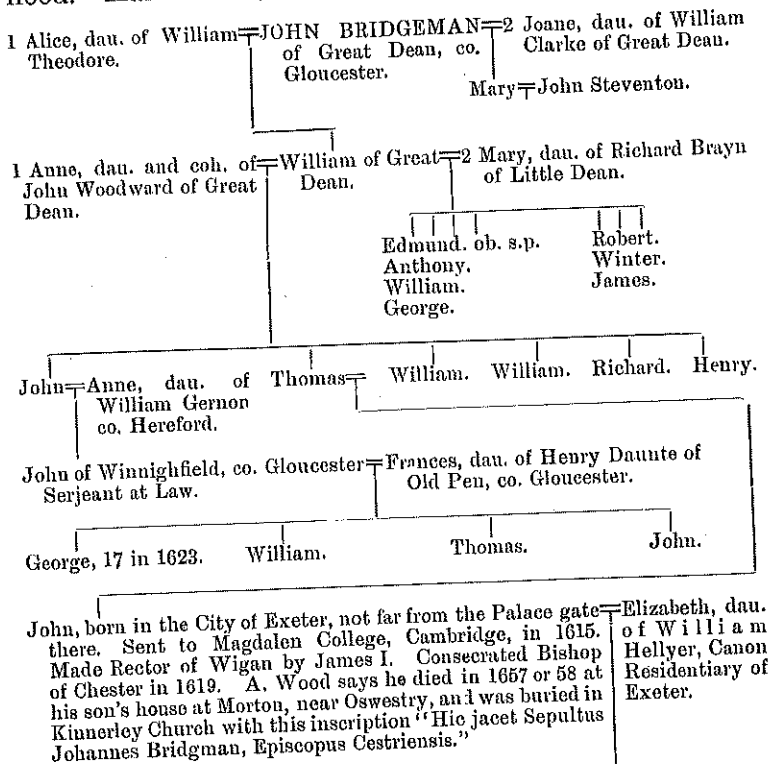
Another portion of the property, consisting of the Bar Meadow, Garridges (formerly Gadditches), &c., passed from Walter Marigold to William Marygold and Thomas Fallowfield in 1705, and in May, 1730, we find Thomas Hill the younger having an interest therein, no doubt one of the Hills of Pepper Hill. There are Indentures between Henry Whiting, Thomas Hill and wife, and Rev. Thomas Perkes in 1747, and 3 George ij., while in 1752 Hannah Perkes takes the place of Rev. Thomas Perkes. The name of Thomas Hill occurs in Deeds of 22nd August, 1759, and 13th February, 1765, while in 13th February, 1770, is an indenture between Henry Whiting, Joseph Hill, and John Cooke, yeoman, a different man from John Cooke previously mentioned. On the 6th May, 1780, is an Indenture between Thomas Bullock and wife, Richard Turner, Robert Salt and wife, Richard Bailey and wife, and Joseph Hill and wife, of one part, and James Smither of the other part, and knowing, as we do, that these represent one interest, and that Elizabeth (wife of Robert Salt), Anne (wife of Richard Bailey), and Dorothy (wife of Joseph Hill), were co-heirs, it is nearly certain that this represents the Turner interest. Joseph Hill, by a Deed of 12th October, 1781, sells his interest to Thomas Meeson, from whom it passed as above.

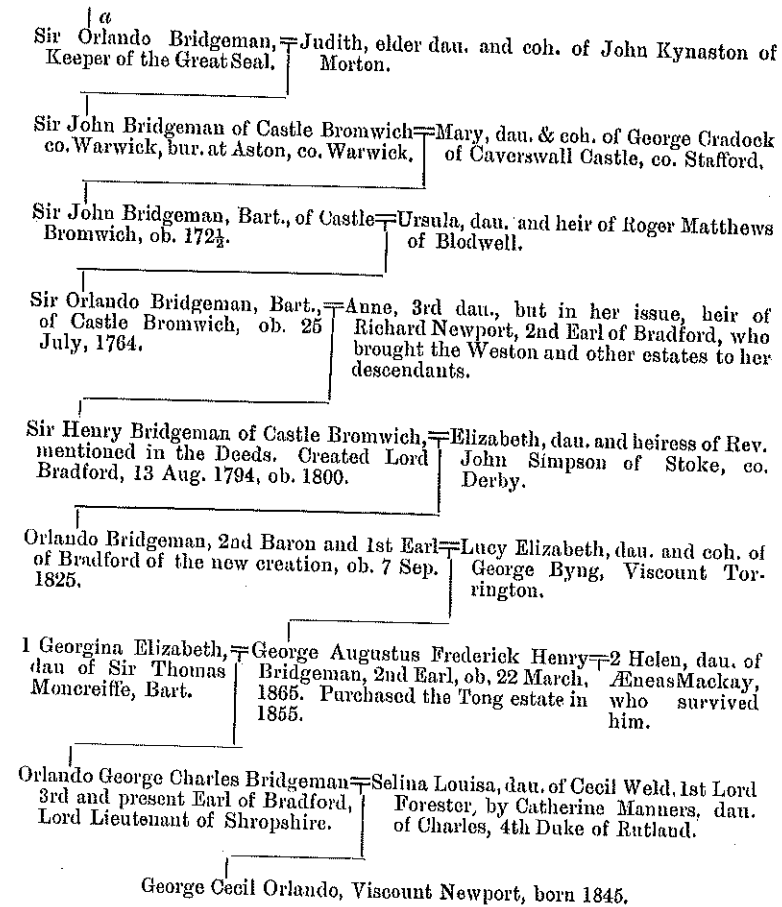
We next come to lands which passed in January, 1727, from Benjamin to Edward Homer, and from him to Walter Stubbs, of whose Will there is an attested copy, dated 13th July, 1752. In April, 1765, we have a quadripartite Deed between Walter and Eleanor Stubbs of the first part, John Stubbs and wife, Jonathan Stubbs, Orlando Stubbs, Mary Dutton, Judith Stubbs, Thomas Plimley and wife, and Thomas Evans and wife of the second part, John Dutton of the third part, and John Heaton of the fourth part. At the same date we have an indenture between Walter Stubbs and Sir Henry Bridgeman, whose name appears again in a

Deed of October, 1767, while in June, 1771, the whole interests in the land were sold to Thomas Meeson.

The above-named Edward Homer is described as a Tanner in the official copy of his Will, 17th February, 1730, and the lands purchased by Meeson from Stubbs were Brickkiln Field and Hill Close. There is also a small piece of land called Reynold's Close, which was purchased from Thomas Harper in May, 1777.

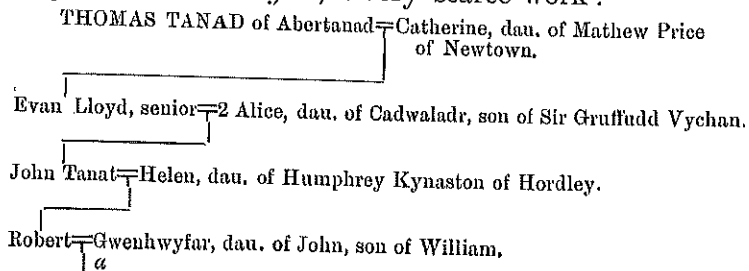
Sir Henry Bridgeman seems to have acted constantly in conjunction with the family of Stubbs, which is a very old one in this border country. Before going further we must give some account of a family which has attained so great an elevation in this neighbourhood. Harl. MSS., 1543.





## NOTES.

The following is the pedigree of Matthews taken from Reynolds's *Genealogies*, a very scarce work:—





Morris of Blodwell = Margaret, dau. of Thomas, son of Owen.

Jane, dau. and heir = John Mathews of Court, son of Robert Matthews son of Nicholas Matthews son of John Mathews son of Evan son of Meredydd son of Gruffudd Vychan son of Gruffudd son of Llewellyn son of Meredydd son of Llewellyn Vraise, Lord of Cnwcklas, co. Radnor.

Roger = Ursula, dau. of Edward Kynaston, of Hordley, Esq.

Ursula, sole heir = Sir John Bridgeman of Castle Bramige.

*Historical Collections* for Staffordshire, Salt Society.  
 Manor and Parish of Blymhill, probable descent of  
 Pichford of Blymhill.

RICHARD DE PICHFORD, joint Lord of Blymhill = . . . . dau. and coh. of  
 1255. *Or.* a lion passant, az. armed and langued John Bagot of Blym-  
*gu.* hill, dead in 1284,

Roger, joint Lord of Blymhill, 1284, 1291 =

John, slain 1324 =

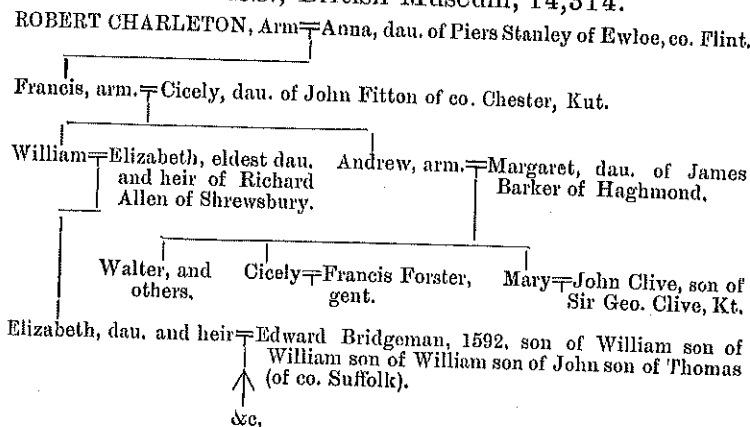
Roger succeeded to the Blymhill estate partly from his uncle = Hawise, relict  
 Thomas, ob. 1397. 1397, 1405.

William, 1415. = Jese, s.p. (Hawise) = William Humfreston of  
 Humfreston, ob. 7 Dec.,  
 1456.

Isabella, dau. and heir, ob. s.p. = William Walton of Walton Grange, 1415.

Richard Newport, the second Earl of Bradford, who married Mary, the daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Wilbraham, Bart., of Woodhay, county Chester, and Weston, county Stafford, left by her five sons and four daughters, so that humanly speaking Sir Orlando Bridgeman was not likely to succeed. But before their grand match with the Newports, who were one of the first families in Shropshire, the Bridgemans had already a good estate in our county, partly derived from the Kynastons, and partly from the family of Matthews, both of which houses are descended from the Princes of Powys.

It is singular that another Sir John Bridgeman existed in Shropshire, with an entirely distinct pedigree. Thus in Add. MSS., British Museum, 14,314.



This is supported by other manuscripts, and the arms are given *sa.* 10 bezants, on a chief *arg.*, a lion passant guardant *ermine*s, though sometimes the shield is tinctured *az.* The *Cwta Cyfarwydd* says, "Monday, being the 5th day of February, 1637, Sir John Bridgeman, Knight, Sergeant-at-Lawe, being Chief Justice of Chester and the Marshes, died at Ludlow, and was shortly after buried." His daughter, Elizabeth, was wife of Vincent, second son of Sir Richard Hussey.

We now pass on to an Indenture of 27th December, 1735, between Edward Jordan, Thomas Devey, Walter Woodcock and wife, and Walter Stubbs. It will be seen from a pedigree already given that the families of Wightwick, Devey, and Stubbs, became related at the latter end of the eighteenth century, and the Wightwicks were already related to the Jordans, and at least connected with the Woodcocks. The following pedigree shows such a connection. Fuller details may be found in Burke's *Vicissitudes of Families*, 3rd series, p. 38.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> It may interest those who have any feelings of sympathy with the unfortunate and respect for ancient rank and blood, to know that, though the descendants of these coheirs suffered severely for a time through pecuniary losses and difficulties, many of them have returned to a more prosperous condition, and one more consonant with the position of their forefathers.

WILLIAM LEA of the Grange=Frances, dau, of William Ward and heir of Hales Owen. her nephew,

2 sons, Ann=William Frances=Walter Mary=. . . Harvey, M.D.  
s.p. ↑ Smith. Woodcock. ob. s.p.

Catherine=Thomas Jordan of Elizabeth=Rev. Benjamin Briscoe.  
Dudley Priory. Rev. B. Briscoe, ob. s.p.

Catherine, coh.=Henry Turner of Mary Jordan, coh.=Thomas Smith of  
or Catherine Lynton, &c. bur. at Whitley, Whitley.  
Jordan, the co. Worcester.

Daniel Turner of Brownhills=Sarah Hanbury.

Catherine, born 13 July, 1775.=George Sarah, born 10 June, 1786.  
Anne, born 22 Sep. 1777. Jones. William, born 25 June, 1788, ob. s.p.  
Lucy, born 29 Sep., 1779. Phebe, born 25 March, 1790.  
Mary, born 27 Nov., 1781. Isaiah, born 12 Oct., 1792, ob. s.p.  
Daniel, born 10 Feb., 1784, ob. s.p. Martha, born 12 March, 1797.

Nathaniel Smith=Mary Hodges Anne=Thomas Smith Mary=John Ham-  
of Martley, co. of Worcester. of Sheldesley mond of  
Worcester. Walsh, co. Worcester.  
s.p.

Thomas, ob. s.p., aged 18. Mary Anne=Henry Douglas,  
bur. at St. John's, Wor- Carden, surgeon,  
cester. of Worcester.  
s.p.

Harriet=Daniel Austin Louisa=John Souter Adelaide=. . . Edwards of  
of Benhurst, of Christ Birmingham  
Hurst Green, Church, New formerly of  
Sussex. Zealand. Worcester.  
s.p. s.p.

. . . Edwards, a son  
in Australia.

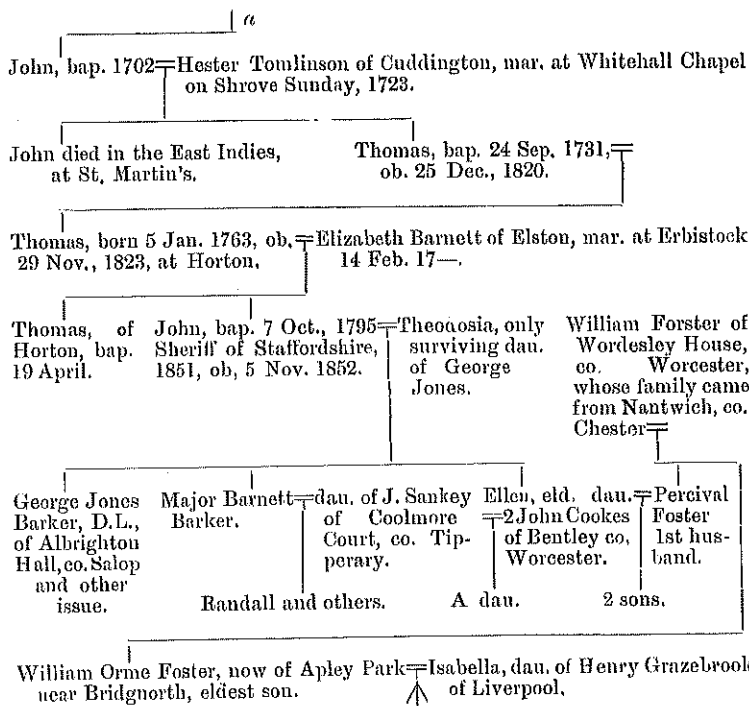
Fanny, living in 1879.

The Woodcocks were unfortunate with their possessions, and many branches of the family became much

reduced in circumstances, through the failure of J. Fereday, who had married Catherine Woodcock Wilmot, grand daughter of the above Walter and Frances Woodcock. In the present instance we trace the property to the family of Smith, who, in March, 1812, sold it to John Meeson. There was, also, a messuage purchased by Richard Reynolds from one John Haywood, a butcher. Another portion consisted of lands purchased from John Howell by John Meeson, in September, 1823, and as late as 1829 we find further agreements between John Yard, Thomas Stokes, Thomas Parsons, and John Meeson. The formation of the Shrewsbury and Birmingham Railway divided this estate into two parts, and in consequence a great modification of it took place. This was carried out by a Deed of 30th May, 1856. The Albrighton Hall Estate had been purchased by Mrs. Barker some few years previously, and the railway cut off a portion of that property, as well as part of Meeson's estate. It was consequently arranged that an exchange should take place, the Barkers taking what part of Meeson's property lay on the Albrighton side of the railway, and giving in exchange that portion of the Albrighton Hall Estate which lay on the other side of the railway, together with a sum of money. This family of Barker came from Tilston in Cheshire, where they had an estate which was sold by the present representative to Lord Stanley, of Alderley. They are probably derived from Randall Barker, son of William Barker and Mary Goulstone, who, having killed a man, fled out of Shropshire, and took sanctuary at the Abbey of Vale Royal, from the Abbot of which monastery he subsequently received lands, but unfortunately, the books of registers, though attesting the presence of the family for some three centuries, are too defective to prove the absolute line of descent. The latter portion runs thus :—

JOHN BARKER = Bennett Painter, mar. 25 Feb, 1701, she died 1728.

|<sup>a</sup>

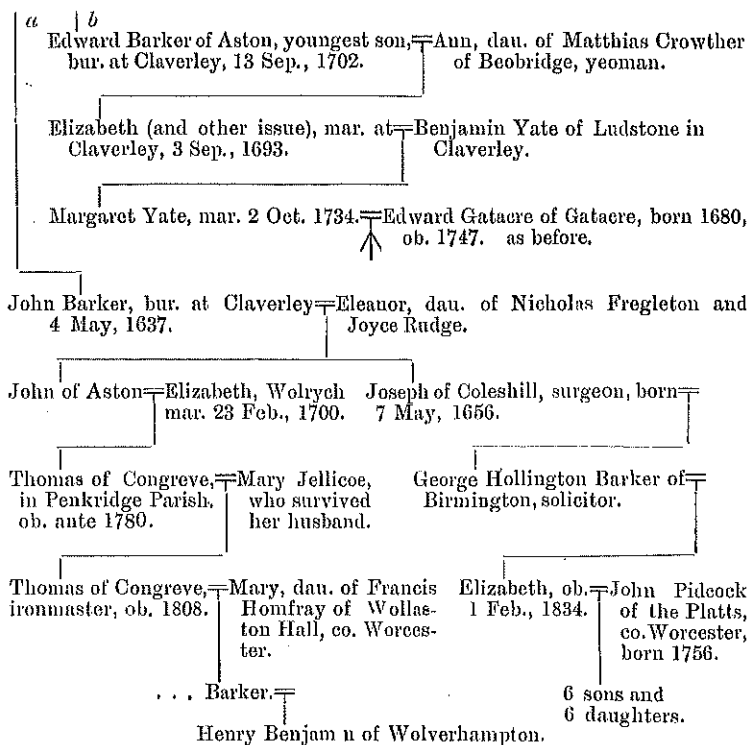


The Tilston Registers speak of Thomas Barker, of Horton, who died 9th February, 1664, and also Thomas, son of John and Anne, baptized 22nd October, 1561, but there is an hiatus in the registers between 1581 and 1654.

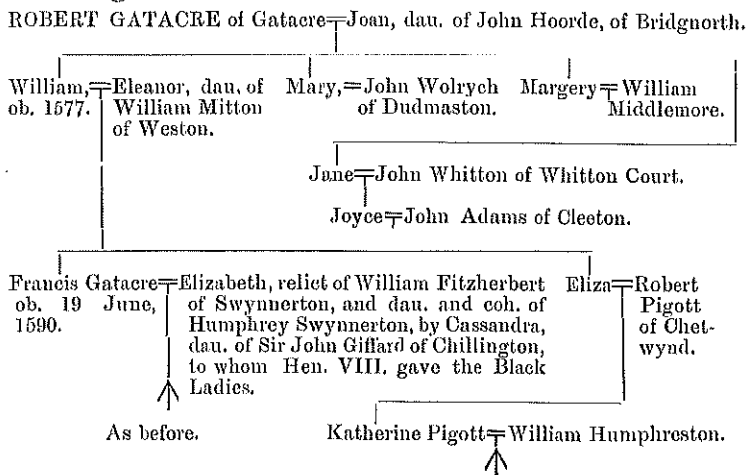
While speaking of the Barker pedigree, the following extracts may throw some light upon the subject, showing that there were other connections between the family and this neighbourhood:—

Mary, prob. dau. of Thomas Grainger, bur. at Claverley, 1576. 1st wife. = RICHARD BARKER of Aston, bur. at Claverley, 1617. = Agnes Hatton, prob. dau. of one of the Hattons of Hatton or Heathton. 2nd wife.

Thomas Barker of Aston bur. at Claverley, 12 July, 1644.	= Elizabeth, dau. of John Smythe of Hilton, by Jane, dau. of Richard Deane of Brewood bur, 1672.
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Turning again to the Gatacre Pedigree, we have the following:—



The descent of the Albrighton Hall Estate through the family of Tennant, of Little Aston Hall, has been already given. We will only make the observation that this supplies another link between Shenstone in Staffordshire and its neighbourhood, and this part of Shropshire, and also points to the identity of families in the two places. Indeed, all these old Staffordshire and border families were related to each other, which probably directed their purchasing land in the same neighbourhood. Amongst them was that of Turner, from which Catherine, wife of George Jones, descended, and which, seated at Sutton Coldfield, in the time of Elizabeth, remained owners of land there or in the neighbouring parishes of Shenstone, Stonall, Lyndon, Great Barr, &c., until the time of her grandfather, Henry Turner; but from a younger son of an earlier generation sprang a branch which, flourishing at Leicester, finally settled at Ambroseden, in Oxfordshire. The portion of the Albrighton Estate which was received in exchange for Meeson's land was incorporated by the last Will of George Jones, in the Beamish Hall property, and so passed to Henwayn Jones, his grandson, and since Harriotts Hays forms part of the same estate, we will finish our subject with a few notes upon it. We begin with a Deed of Sale, 16th June, 1715, between Walter Woodcock and wife and Thomas Devey. In Trinity Term, 1 George j., a fine is levied; Thomas Moreton and William Howell being plaintiffs, Walter Woodcock and wife deforciant. Thus again with this estate we have the old and influential Moreton family connected. After some agreements between John Hilton Shenton and John Thomason, we have a Deed of lease and release, 1st May, 1728, between— Firstly, John Hilton Shenton; secondly, John Devey; thirdly, John Hayes; and fourthly, John Osborn, whose representative in 1730 seems to have been Dorothy Osborn. On 1st December, 1731, we have a Deed of Sale between Dorothy Osborn and Charles Osborn of the first part, John Hilton Shenton of

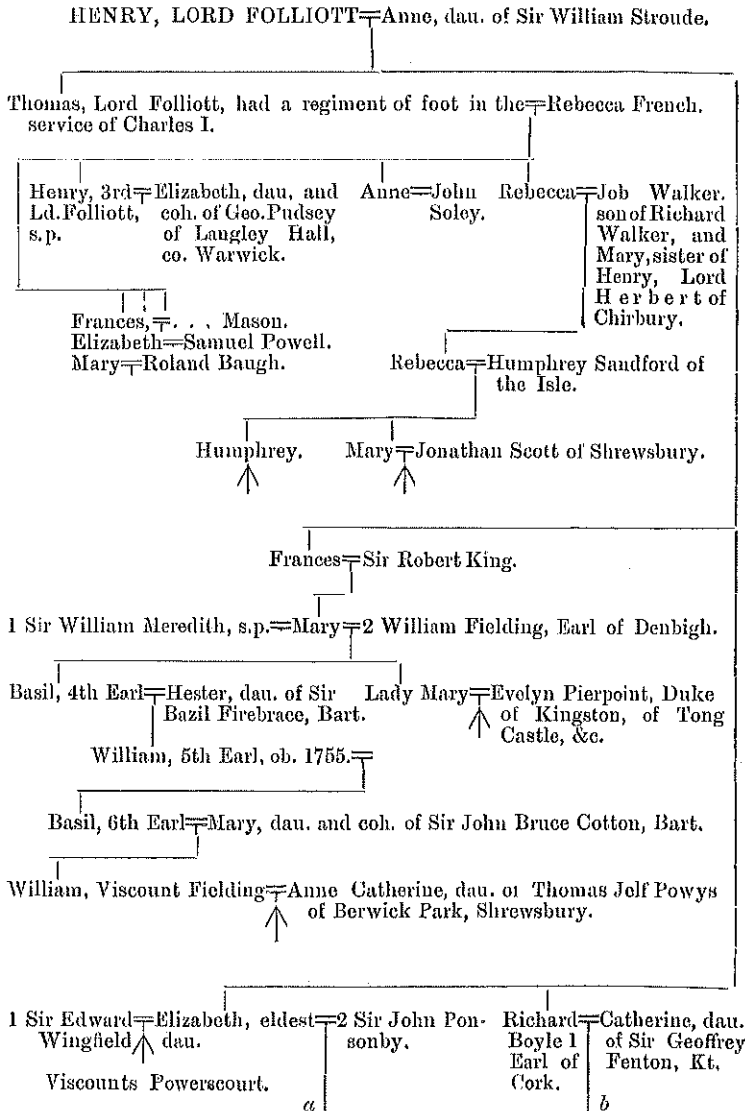
the second part, and Walter Stubbs of the third part.

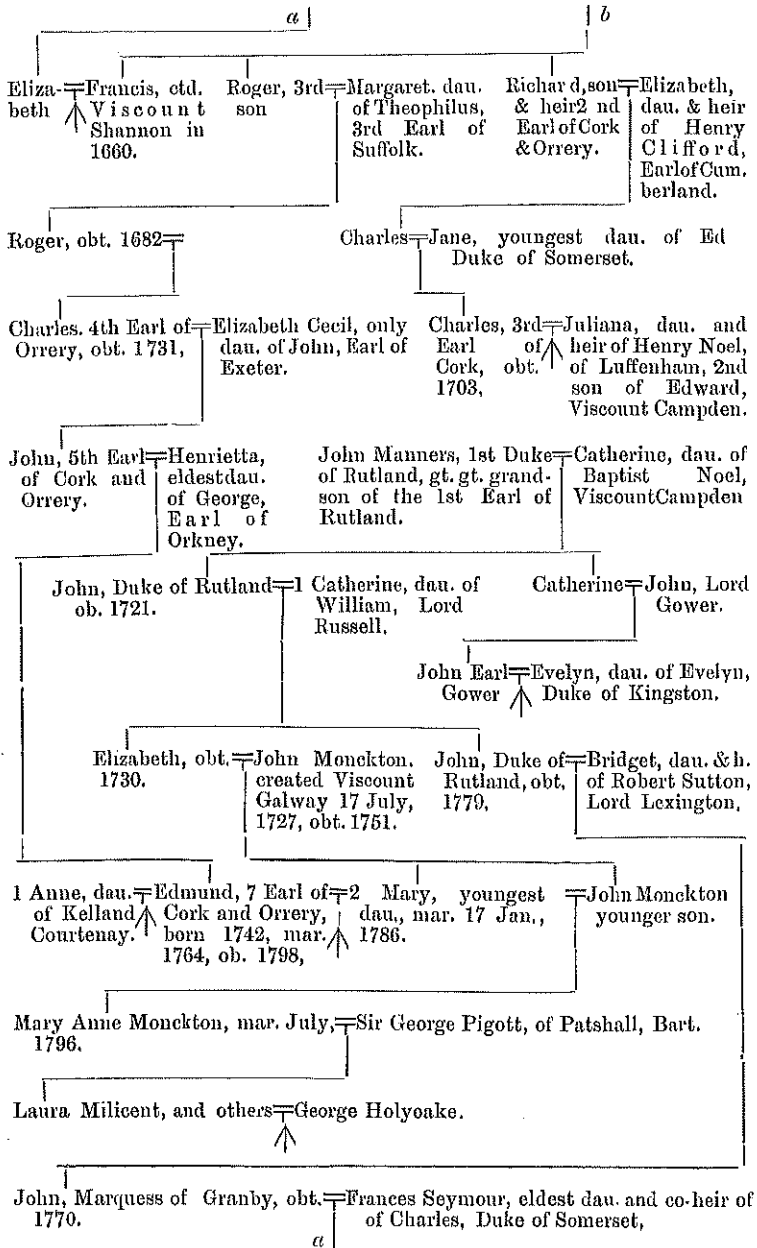
In 1752, July 13th, we have an attested copy of the Will of Walter Stubbs, followed 30th September, 1756, by a Deed of Sale between Judith Stubbs and Walter Stubbs of the first part, and Walter Hansom. Then a copy of Chirograph of Fine Easter Term, 5 George ii. mentions John Heaton, plaintiff, John Stubbs and wife, Walter Stubbs and wife, Mary Dutton, Thomas Plimley and wife, Thomas Evans and wife, Judith Stubbs, Jonathan Stubbs, and Orlando Stubbs, deforciant. In April of the same year (1765) we have an indenture between Walter Stubbs and wife, and Sir Henry Bridgeman, and later in the same year the Will of Walter Stubbs, dated 11th November, 1765. In January 25th, 1766, we have an agreement between Ann Hansom, John Lander and wife of the first part, Walter Stubbs of the second part, and John Heaton of the third part, and the whole of this land passed by a Deed of 24th April, 1805, into the hands of John Meeson.

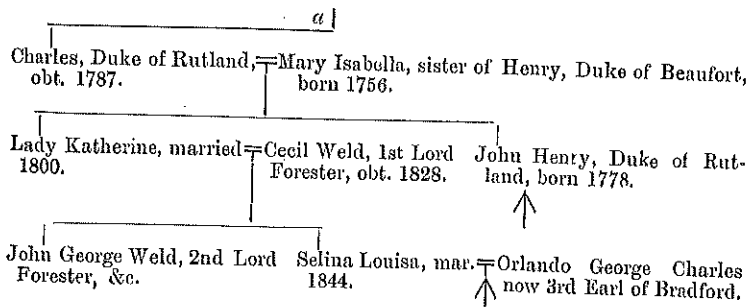
Another portion of this estate passed by a Deed of 27th December, 1770, from Eleanor Stubbs, Jonathan Stubbs, and Orlando Stubbs, to the Right Hon. George Lord Pigot. This George Pigot had been raised to the Peerage of Ireland in 1765, but died, it is presumed, by violence in India, without issue. There is a copy of his will, with codicil, dated 16th April, 1775. In an indenture of 20th June, 1796, are mentioned the following:—Sir Robert Pigot, Bart., (i.e., brother and successor of the above Lord Pigot), George Pigot (probably son of Sir Robert), the Hon. John Monckton, Mary Anne Monckton, the Hon. Edward Monckton, . . . Russell, the Hon. Edmund Boyle, commonly called Edmond Viscount Dungarven, Thomas Partington, James Bouchier, and Edward Boodle. The Moncktons were, of course, relatives of Lord Galway, and Mary, youngest daughter of John, first Viscount Galway, was, on 17th January, 1786, married to Edmund, seventh



Earl of Cork and Orrery. Thus there were further connections with families of this neighbourhood, as the following scheme shows :—







In May, 1779, we have an indenture of lease and re-lease between Sir Robert Pigot of the first part, Hugh Pigot of the second part, Margaret Fisher of the third part, and Hunt Walsh of the fourth part; and on the 27th May, 1820, Sir George Pigot sells his land here to John Meeson, and so these two parts of Harriots Hayes became united. On the 29th March, 1837, John Meeson and Maria, his wife, sell the estate to James Heath and William Bushle, and in their interest it continued together, with that of John Armishaw, until the April of 1847, when John Armishaw and James Heath sold it to George Jones, from whom it passed by Will and descent to his grandson, Henwayn Jones.

We have, from the Deeds of the several estates, than which there could be no better evidence, traced the lands in this neighbourhood for several generations, and if we take a comprehensive view of the whole, we must acknowledge that the family in which they centred was that of Moreton, even the Manor of Humphreston becoming connected with it, through Anne (Moreton) the wife of Humphrey Briggs, who was co-heir of Robert Moreton, of Haughton, the eldest son, and her mother, Joyce Lee, has been shown to be a descendant of the older Lords of Donington. The estate of the Moretons must have been, at one time, very great, for, besides these several properties, they owned others in Staffordshire, part of which at Lyndon came to the Turners, but their possessions seem to have passed away

from them piecemeal into other families, to be again gathered together in later days.

Before closing this, which is little more than an appendix to what has already been said, it may be well to add that the estates which George Jones had entailed were seized during the life of his son on behalf of those who had a reversionary interest in them, and the Deeds were sent up to London and placed in the custody of the Court of Chancery. Here they remained consigned to the vaults constructed for that purpose, under the New Law Courts, until the Monday following the 23rd June, 1883, when by an order of the Court, they were handed over in the presence of Mr. Vaughan, of Humphreston, to Messrs. Yarde and Loader (his solicitors) on his part, represented by Mr. Loader, and Messrs. Smith and Bell on behalf of the others interested in them, represented by Mr. Smith, and so carried from the Court, and given to their several owners.

The late George Jones purchased, in 1852, an outlying portion of land from the late Lancelot Shadwell, eldest son of the Vice-Chancellor Shadwell, and threw it into his Humphreston property, taking away the fences so that it formed part of that estate, and in 1853 he purchased some more outlying land from Mr. Shadwell, which he incorporated with his Harriots Hays estate, and finally, in 1854, he purchased the Beamish Hall farm from the same Vendor, and settled it by his Will dated 1857, on his grandson, Henwayn Jones, together with the Harriots Hays estate, so that the present Beamish Hall estate includes three portions. Firstly, Harriots Hays; secondly, the portion of land purchased by Mr. Jones from Lancelot Shadwell in 1853, and thrown into Harriots Hays; and thirdly the Beamish Hall farm.

The following shows the connection between the Shadwells and this neighbourhood :—

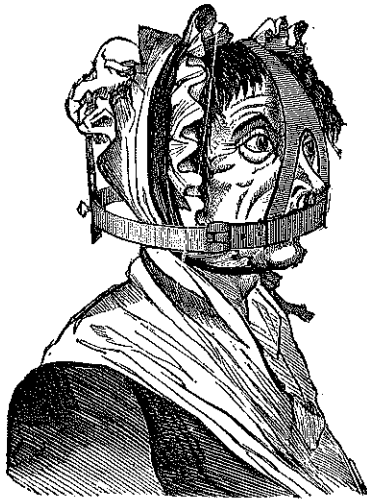
RICHARD WHITMORE of Lower Slaughter, = Anne, dau. of Sir John Weld  
 co. Gloucester, ob. ante, 1694. of Willey.





#### ERRATUM.

Grisagona, the wife of Edward Grey of Buildwas son of Lord Powis, was not the daughter of John Giffard of Chillingford, as often stated, but of John Gifford of Co. Gloucester, by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir George Throgmorton, Knight.



MODE OF WEARING THE BRANK.



THE DUCKING STOOL.  
(from an old Engraving.)



## THE OBSOLETE PUNISHMENTS OF SHROPSHIRE.

BY S. MEESON MORRIS.

(Continued from Page 112, Vol. VIII.)

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### THE DUCKING STOOL.

THE ducking stool was another of the ingenious instruments of correction which were formerly used in England. It was principally employed for the punishment of scolding and unquiet women, who, in years past, were very properly regarded as offenders against the public peace, and treated accordingly. References to the former existence in the county of Salop of several ducking stools, and contrivances of a similar kind, may yet be found, although all actual examples of the inventions must long since have succumbed to the ravages of time.

The punishment has been well described as the "oldest known remedy for evil tongues," so old, in fact, that it is mentioned in the *Domesday Survey*. The term ducking stool probably had its origin in the *Belgic*, or *Teutonic*, *ducken*, to dive under water; from whence also, doubtless, the duck, the water fowl, is denominated.

A common scold was looked upon as being a public nuisance to her neighbourhood, and for the offence was liable to be proceeded against by indictment, and after conviction placed in the ducking stool, and plunged in water for her punishment.

It is of interest to observe that the law-latin confines the term to the feminine gender, and does not appear to have contemplated the commission of any such a transgression of the law against scolding by a man. It was evidently supposed that none but women could be guilty of this offence, for the technical words denoting the same, whilst the proceedings were in Latin, were all of the feminine gender : as *rixatrix*, *calumniatrix*, *communis pugnatrice*, *communis pacis perturbatrix*, and the like.

It should also be stated that it was not every degree of scolding that was indictable or punishable. The charge must have been laid to be to the common nuisance of the scold's neighbours, and the indictment was bound to contain, in addition to the offence set forth with convenient certainty, a statement at the end that it was committed, not only against the peace, but to the common nuisance of divers of his or her Majesty's liege subjects.

Apparently, therefore, some little latitude was permitted, whereby a wife was not denied the customary privilege of scolding her husband in private, but if she so far committed herself as to become what was technically termed "a common scold," and thereby a nuisance, she then brought herself within the pale of the law, and was liable to be punished after the prescribed manner by having an embargo laid upon her tongue.

The records of the borough of Ludlow furnish the most ample evidence of the fact, that in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries charges preferred against women for being common scolds were events of the most frequent occurrence.

The sessions' proceedings of that town abound with presentments made against persons for scolding, and for other offences, which were generally visited with the penalties of the ducking stool.

This is particularly noticeable in the reign of King James I. In that reign, at the same sessions, the con-

stables appointed for the Castle Ward, a portion of the borough only, presented two women for being common scolds, and one for a night-walker. <sup>1</sup>

In another case at these sessions, the wife appears to have imparted some of her loquacious propensities to her husband, for both were together charged with scolding and disturbing their neighbours. <sup>2</sup>

In another case, in the year 1708, a female was presented for being a tale-bearer, by which probably was meant what would in modern language be called a scandal-monger. <sup>3</sup> Later, in the year 1711, a presentment against a woman, for a foul talker and abuser of her neighbours, was quashed. <sup>4</sup>

Many similar instances could be mentioned from the same records, but it is useless to multiply examples. They are all more or less of the same description.

At the Court at Holgate or Holdgate, in the county of Salop, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a man was presented for being a common scold, and using opprobrious words to his neighbours. <sup>5</sup>

If further evidence in this direction were needed it could readily be given. At the period referred to, the records of every court legally entitled to take cognizance of such matters are full of cases of a similar kind, and it will not be asserting too much when it is said that a great portion of the time of these courts must then have been occupied in trying and determining these trivial charges, with all the dignity and solemnity that the law could command.

<sup>1</sup> "Wee p'sent Elinor Biddle for a common scould." "Wee p'sent Urias Fletcher, his wife, for a common scould." "Wee do p'sent Elinor Bebb for a night walker."

<sup>2</sup> "We p'sent Thomas Williams & his Wiefe for scoulding and disturbing their neighbours."

<sup>3</sup> October 5, 1708 :—"Wee p'sent Elinor the wife of Arthur Hughes for a tale bearer."

<sup>4</sup> May 29, 1711 :—"Ordered that the P'sentm<sup>t</sup> ag<sup>t</sup> Ann the daughter of William Roberts for a foul talker & abuser of her neighbours be quashed."

<sup>5</sup> "It'm, of Anthony Watters for beinge a comen skowld and usinge abbrobryous wordes towards his neijgboweres."

In the present day, such a state of things is almost too absurd even to contemplate.

There are a few instances of male offenders being punished with the ducking stool, but it was very seldom indeed that men were ordered to undergo this essentially feminine mode of correction.

The ducking stool was a curious but simple machine. It consisted of a stool or chair, sometimes ornamented with suitable drawings and poetic quotations, attached to the extremity of a long pole, and mounted upon a fulcrum in such a manner that the chair with the offender securely seated and fastened in it could be readily swung over a pond, or other suitable piece of dirty water, and immersed or ducked, at regular and suitable intervals. A Frenchman, who paid a visit to this country in or about the year 1700, gives a most intelligent and detailed description of the ducking stool.<sup>1</sup>

This account forms a valuable addition to the history of the punishment, because it was evidently written after a careful inspection of this engine of punishment, and a personal observation of the manner in which it was used. He says :—"The way of punishing scolding women is pleasant enough. They fasten an arm chair to the end of two beams, twelve or fifteen feet long, and parallel to each other ; so that these two pieces of wood, with their two ends, embrace the chair, which hangs between them on a sort of axle ; by which means it plays freely and always remains in the natural horizontal position in which the chair should be, that a person may sit conveniently in it, whether you raise it or let it down. They set up a post on the bank of a pond or river, and over this post they lay, almost in equilibrio, the two pieces of wood, at one end of which the chair hangs just over the water. They place the woman in this chair, and so plunge her into the water, as often as the sentence directs, in order to cool her immoderate heat."

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<sup>1</sup> M: Misson, in his work entitled, *Travels in England*.

Nothing could be more descriptive than this concise explanation, by one who was obviously an eye-witness of the contrivance, and of the easy, but effectual manner, in which it could be used.

The ducking stool had no regard for persons. High and low, rich and poor, young and old, were alike subject to its hydropathic treatment.

Traces of some of the other contrivances very closely resembling the ducking stool, such as the tumbrel, and cucking stool, are also to be found in Shropshire; and inasmuch as it is intended to mention under this one head, not only the ducking stool, but also, incidentally, several other inventions of a similar description which have been met with, it may be well here to point out that although the designations ducking stool, cucking stool, and probably the tumbrel, in course of time became synonymous, the terms previously to the reign of Queen Elizabeth were intended to signify things of a totally different kind.

It is a matter of some difficulty to distinguish between them, but it can be said of the tumbrel that it was a low rolling cart, or kind of carriage, mounted upon two wheels, and provided with long shafts. Over the wheels was fastened a chair, occasionally made of iron, in which the offender was placed. The crowd played an important part in this punishment. Bareheaded, the prisoner was pulled through the streets, amid much shouting and confusion. The cart was tumbled and jostled most mercilessly, and occasionally it was constructed, so as to be used for immersion when necessary, and then a ducking in some dirty pond brought the public exhibition to a conclusion. In this proceeding another trace may be detected of the ancient and savage practice of exposing a culprit to public view, and trusting to the brutality of the spectators for the infliction of a sufficient penalty. A slight study of the history of this country will suffice to prove, how, at a time when there was not that sympathy between man and man which happily now exists, but when deeds of violence were part of the na-

tional character, this privilege of tormenting a defenceless fellow-being was always exercised to the fullest extent.

The ancient cucking stool was more stationary than the ducking stool or tumbrel. In it, the delinquent was imprisoned and placed before her own door, or in some more important position, as the market place, or chief gate of the town, to be jeered at by the people.

It has been suggested by a very eminent authority,<sup>1</sup> that the term cucking stool, is derived from *cuck* or *guck*, which in the Saxon tongue signified to scold or brawl; taken from the bird *cuckoo* or *guckhaw*; *ing* in that language meaning water.

Another authority<sup>2</sup> derives it from the French *Coquine* and the German *stull*, the *quean's chair*, and adds some further information, also mentioned by other writers upon the subject, namely that offenders were plunged thrice into the water. This may possibly have been the rule, but if so, it must have been one more honoured in the breach than the observance. The excitement of the occasion was invariably too great for the persons entrusted with the infliction of the punishment, who, encouraged by the acclamations of the spectators, and perhaps with a promise of a little additional remuneration, ducked, and ducked, beyond the prescribed number of times. In one familiar instance at least, the ducking was carried to such an extent, that when it was ended it was found that the woman had expired, or in other words been drowned; and in another case equally well-known, death ensued shortly after the punishment, from the cruel manner in which the victim of a superstitious rabble was used.

It seems to be unnecessary, even if it could now be done with any degree of accuracy, to distinguish further between the tumbrel, castigatory, cucking stool, tre-bucket, scolding stool, ducking stool, goginstole, and coke-stole. The deeper the search made to discover the

<sup>1</sup> Lord Coke.

<sup>2</sup> John Chamberlayne, the author of *Magna Britannica Notitia*, Edition of 1741, part i., p. 195.

precise meaning of these various designations, the greater becomes the difficulty of the inquirer, to say, with any amount of reasonable certainty, to which of the ancient inventions the name used was intended to apply. The most that can be stated is, that long ago, there were several different kinds of instruments of this description, all resembling, however, in some shape or form, the more modern ducking stool.

The means of defining strictly how the various machines differed in their construction and application, are not available by reason of the fact that all the before-mentioned names have, for a considerable time, been used by writers upon the subject in speaking of the ducking stool. A probable illustration of this indiscriminate use of the different terms at Ludlow will be mentioned hereafter.

The great antiquity of the ducking stool is beyond doubt. It was known in England as early as the era of the Saxon government, and was called by the Saxons, *scealfing stole*, and was anciently inflicted on brewers and bakers transgressing the laws, who were ducked *in stercore* (in stinking water).

It has been said that everyone entitled to a leet or market was bound to provide a pillory for the punishment of offenders within the jurisdiction. A tumbrel was equally indispensable, and forfeiture of the leet itself was one of the incidents of negligence in not taking care to have a tumbrel, wherewith to carry out the usual sentences. It resembled the punishment of the pillory also in another important particular. Its application deprived the offender of the right to be received as a witness in any matter.

That the punishment of the ducking stool was extremely popular in its day cannot be denied, and consequently it is frequently mentioned in quaint language by many of the old English poets. Among others, Butler, the author of the satirical poem *Hudibras*, refers to it.<sup>9</sup> He lived in the seventeenth century,

<sup>9</sup> Edition of 1782, part ii., canto ii., p. 199.

and inasmuch as he resided at Ludlow Castle for some years after the restoration, it has been suggested that when he penned the lines in question, he had in mind the Leominster ducking stool, which may be seen to this day. Butler says :—

These mounted on a chair curule,  
Which moderns call a ducking stool,  
March proudly to the river's side,  
And o'er the waves in triumph ride,  
Like Dukes of Venice, who are said  
The Adriatick sea to wed,  
And have a gentler wife than those  
For whom the State decrees those shows.

It was a most efficacious remedy for slander and scolding. The effect produced upon noisy women by being ducked, and ducked again, and again, in water, not always pure or sweet, can perhaps be better imagined than described. Occasionally, of course, the culprit on regaining freedom, showered oaths and curses on her tormentors, but despite her screamings and invectives, the desired effect was generally attained, and the unruly member effectually silenced by the operation for a considerable time to come.

This result has been well summed up by a poet of the period in these lines <sup>10</sup>—

No brawling wives! No furious wenches,  
No fire so hot but water quenches.

The fee paid for the infliction of the punishment, appears to have varied, from one to two shillings. At Ludlow, it was about one shilling per head for a number of cases at the same time, and a little more for a single case, but in other places a greater amount was paid.

It has been already stated that males were occasionally punished by the ducking stool. Instances in which brewers, male scolds, and other male offenders were ducked, may be found, but the application of the

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<sup>10</sup> They may be found in the description of the ducking stool, given by Benjamin West, of Weedon Beck, Northamptonshire, in a volume of *Miscellaneous Poems*, published 1780.



punishment to anyone but a female, was an event of great rarity, and this being so, it may be assumed that when such an unusual occurrence did take place, it was carefully recorded for the information of posterity, whereas a female in the ducking stool, being a familiar spectacle, would attract little or no public attention, and be frequently passed by unrecorded, and almost unnoticed. The few cases of men in the ducking stool which can be discovered are thus sufficient of themselves to prove how seldom it was that the chair was occupied by male offenders; on the other hand, the numerous recorded instances of the punishment of women by this means serve to show what a common sight it was, in years gone by, to see a female undergoing the penalties of the ducking stool. An instance may be mentioned in the reign of Queen Mary in which her privy council directed the ancient constitutional punishment of the cucking stool, upon a scold at Bedford, for railing against her Majesty.<sup>1</sup> This illegal and inquisitorial tribunal sent orders to the town of Bedford, "for the punishment of a woman (after due examination of her qualities), by the cucking stool, she having been arrested for railing and speaking unseemly words of the queen's majesty."

This award of personal punishment, without regular trial, emanated from a certain junta of the privy council, whose business it was to sit in the Star Chamber in Westminster Palace, and apportion the inflictions which seemed good in their eyes, as vengeance on personal affronts offered to the reigning monarch, but when it condescended to doom an old scold of a distant provincial town to the cucking stool, it might have been thought, that derision would have disarmed the cucking stool of its terrors for ever.

The old accounts of very many places, particularly in the northern parts of England, abound with charges

<sup>1</sup> An excellent account of this remarkable case is given in *Lives of the Queens of England*, by Agnes Strickland, edition of 1864, vol. iii., p. 445.

and entries relating to the construction and reparation of the local ducking stool, and allusions to its use, some of them of a most amusing description, are frequently made in the ancient records of various places.

It is with extreme difficulty that reliable references to the former existence of ducking stools, or any of the other similar inventions in the county of Salop, have been obtained. Fortunately some records are still in existence which conclusively prove that in the centuries in which this punishment was most popular, Shropshire was not behind other counties in its provision for the necessities of the time, and although but few instances, comparatively speaking, of these contrivances can now be pointed to with certainty, there can be no doubt that at one time many of them were used to cool the choler and heat of Salopian females, if for no more important purpose.

Following the plan adopted in speaking of the pillory, it is proposed, in the first place, to consider the Shrewsbury ducking stool, and then to mention the other towns and places in the county, which appear formerly to have possessed either a ducking stool or one of the other contrivances of a similar kind, to which references have already been made.

Among some orders affecting the government of the town of Shrewsbury issued in the seventeenth century, is one proving conclusively that the Corporation had duly weighed and considered the necessity of having set up a ducking stool to execute the punishment which was then regarded with so great favour by every class of society.

In the year 1669, the punishment was highly popular in England, and the authorities in Shrewsbury then commanded a ducking stool to be erected for the punishment of all scolds.<sup>1</sup> The question arises : was this

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<sup>1</sup> The order is as follows:—"Ordered that a ducking stool be erected for the punishment of all scolds." Phillips's *History of Shrewsbury*, p. 172.

the first occasion upon which the punishment was adopted in Shrewsbury? The order, certainly, did not refer in its terms to the repair of a ducking stool, or to the substitution of a new for an old one; moreover, the purpose to which it was to be put, namely, "for the punishment of all scolds," is very clearly and carefully defined; a statement which would seem to have been unnecessary, had the Corporation then been accustomed to use, as they were beyond question entitled to do, this remedy for subduing evil tongues.

These circumstances all appear to point to the conclusion that it was in the year 1669 that the Corporation of Shrewsbury first became aware of the great utility of the ducking stool, and that they then for the first time decided to adopt it as one of their modes of punishment. On the other hand, it may be urged that the ducking stool had at that time been long in constant use in other places in England, and even in Ludlow, and probably in other parts of Shropshire, and everywhere it had for years been universally admitted to be the most simple and effectual method of checking the particular offence for which it was generally applied. Shrewsbury, also, was fully alive to its responsibilities, and was provided with the other punishments which were contemporaneous with the ducking stool.

Notwithstanding, therefore, the careful manner in which this order is apparently worded, the opinion is expressed that the year 1669 was *not* that in which this punishment was first used in Shrewsbury. This suggestion is at variance with the opinions expressed by other writers upon the subject, who, almost without exception, mention the date of this order as the time when a ducking stool was first erected in Shrewsbury. The only reason given for this statement is the wording of the order itself, but it is apprehended that this is insufficient, and had an examination been made of the other orders which were issued at the same time, it would have been found that in all of them the language is most explicit, even in the definition of customs which

were undoubtedly of much earlier creation than 1669. The order is nothing more than an example of the over-careful manner in which, centuries ago, all important matters were expressed when reduced into writing.

Many convenient places for the due performance of the ducking were to be found in the Severn, but from the description of the punishment, the pure water of that river was probably regarded as of far too clean a kind for the purpose. Some muddy, stagnant piece of water, is more likely to have been the selected place. The pool in the Quarry Dingle was readily accessible, and in every respect adapted for the punishment of the ducking stool, both from its proximity to the town, and the gently sloping banks with which it was, and is, surrounded. It is well known that other sentences, such as burning to death, were carried out there,<sup>1</sup> and it may be that it was also used for many kinds of punishments, the ducking stool among the number. Many years ago there was another convenient and suitable pool, almost in the centre of the town. It was called the ducking pool, and was used as a receptacle for all kinds of rubbish, and as a place where dogs and cats could be consigned to a watery grave. It was situated near to Dogpole, somewhere about the spot where the back of the present carriage works now stands. It has been said, and probably with much reason, that the name of the street itself is a corruption of "ducking pool," and that in this pool the citizens of Shrewsbury were wont to inflict upon noisy females this easy but wonderful remedy for garrulousness. The existence of this pool has also been mentioned as having been called "dogs' pool," and hence the street Dogpole.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In the year 1647 a woman was burnt to death in the Shrewsbury dingle for killing her husband by poisoning. Phillips's *History of Shrewsbury*, p. 211

<sup>2</sup> Upon the authority of the late Mr. Joseph Morris, of Shrewsbury, a writer in *Salopian Shreds and Patches*, vol. iii, p. 255, states that in olden times there was a pool in Dogpole, in which so many dogs were drowned, that it became known as, "dogs' pool," and hence the street, Dogpole.

Curiously enough, in the plan of Shrewsbury, executed for Lord Burleigh in the reign of Queen Elizabeth,<sup>1</sup> which, it will be remembered, contains a rough drawing of the pillory, two upright poles are plainly shown at or near to the place, which, it is supposed, was formerly occupied by the pool in question. A fairly wide road leads to an open space some little distance from Dogpole, and here these two poles are marked upon the plan. It is, of course, difficult to determine the purpose for which they were originally erected, but they have an appearance decidedly castigatory, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that they were intended to represent some part of the ducking stool then in use at Shrewsbury. Another remark upon the plan may be made. Upon a close inspection it will be seen that near to the bottom of the Wyle Cop, and apparently in the open space between the bottom of that street and the English Bridge, may be observed an instrument resembling to a remarkable degree an orthodox ducking stool. There is an upright pole, with a moveable cross-bar, and to the end of the latter something which would correspond with a chair or stool, is attached by a cord or chain. The plan is very roughly drawn, but the article in question may very possibly have been intended by the delineator to represent the ducking stool, which, no doubt, in this event, was used either in the Severn, to which it is adjacent, or in some pool not far away.

Of course, if any reliance can be placed upon either of the foregoing suggestions with regard to the plan, which are put forward only as mere conjectures, the proposition that it was *not* in the year 1669 that Shrewsbury first provided a ducking stool has been conclusively proved, because the plan is many years prior in date. There is some force in the argument that the drawer who took so much pains to show the

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<sup>1</sup> A fac-simile of the original plan was published by John Davies, Shrewsbury, in August, 1860.

pillory, the conduits, the crosses, and other erections of minor importance, would not have omitted to give a prominent place to such an important thing as the ducking stool had one then existed. No further information respecting the Shrewsbury ducking stool has been traced.

Many years ago there was a tumbrel at Oswestry, which must have been a very ancient institution in that town. In the same *quo warranto*,<sup>1</sup> bearing date in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and in the year 1600, by which the right of the Bailiffs and Burgesses of Oswestry to the use of the pillory for the punishment of malefactors was unsuccessfully questioned, it was also inquired by the crown, by the then Attorney General, Thomas Egerton, by what warrant or authority the tumbrel was used. The Bailiffs and Burgesses appeared in due course to this *quo warranto*, and made answer that the punishment of the tumbrel had been enjoyed at Oswestry from a time immemorial, to which the memory of man did not extend. This proved to be an unanswerable defence of the privilege, and the result was the same as in the case of the pillory, the plea of immemorial usage was accepted and allowed, and in due form of law recorded. The Bailiffs and Burgesses were, perhaps, unable to produce any documentary evidence, such as a grant or license in proof of the legal existence of the right, or the answer of immemorial usage would not have been relied upon by their advisers as the main ground of the defence to this attack upon one of their most ancient privileges. Doubtless this tumbrel was much used, but further particulars of it cannot be procured.

Whitchurch was not behind other towns in this provision for checking women possessed of too great volubility of speech.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Information concerning this *quo warranto*, may be found in *Transactions Shropshire Archeological Society* vol. iii., pp. 92-99, inclusive.

<sup>2</sup> An interesting paper on this subject (among others), was published in the *Whitchurch Parish Magazine* for the month of April, 1867. To the author of that paper the writer of this is indebted for the information relating to the Whitchurch ducking stool.

It has been said by a reliable authority, whose information was obtained from an interesting and duly authenticated local manuscript bearing upon the subject, that the site which is now occupied by the Old Savings' Bank and adjoining yards was formerly a pool of water, the supply for a mill which stood hard by, being regulated by a sluice in the mill dam. One side of this pool was shallow, and accessible from the street for the purpose of watering horses and cattle. On the other side, where the depth was great, a foot plank and rail extended some little distance over the water, to facilitate the filling of buckets and other vessels. Athwart the rail, and fastened by a pivot to a post, was placed a long ladder. Firmly attached to that end of the ladder which overhung the water was a chair, into which the brawling woman was tied down, while to the other end was fastened a rope, by which the inhabitants might regulate the amount of ducking which was deemed requisite in any particular case.

This then was how the townspeople of Whitchurch punished such of the scolds of the locality as became a nuisance to the community, and it is not difficult to picture the excitement of the populace when the hour of retribution arrived, and the recalcitrant dame was led to the place of punishment. The boisterous crowd jeering at the cries of the delinquent, and the yells and laughter of the assembled mob as she appeared above water, only to gasp for breath before being again plunged in the pool, can be easily imagined in a small town where a little amusement must have been a great boon to the people, and a relief from the ordinary course of every day life.

The apparatus itself was certainly one of extreme simplicity, both in its construction and working; indeed, looking at the rough and ready manner in which it was made, it is a matter for congratulation that nothing has been left upon record to show that occasionally one dip too many was given, and the tongue of the shrew silenced, not only for a time, but for ever.

The culprit, being seated in the chair, naturally weighed down that one end into the water, and lifted the other up in the air, while the rope was used for regulating the uplifted end by causing it to rise or fall, and in this way a perfect see-saw was obtained.

How long this practice had been adopted in Whitchurch cannot be ascertained, but mention is made of the existence of the invention so late as the year 1730, and it is not at all improbable that it was used for some time after that date.

The voluminous records of the ancient borough of Ludlow contain many references to the punishment now under consideration, all of a most interesting and valuable description.

Every one of the contrivances upon which it is intended to treat in these papers was, at the proper time, used in the town. Evidence to prove the correctness of this statement may be easily discovered by a short search through the various proceedings at the Quarter Sessions, and the ancient accounts of the local authorities, all of which are, fortunately, in an excellent state of preservation.

The names ducking stool, cucking stool, and cuck stool, occur in numerous documents throughout the records.

Another designation of this instrument of correction, the *gumble stool*, is also mentioned upon more than one occasion. This latter name is, so far as has been ascertained, after a careful perusal of many authorities, peculiar to Ludlow, and consequently of especial interest, although in the absence of further information regarding it, it is somewhat difficult to determine exactly what it was intended to represent. Without doubt, it was another name for the ducking stool, or one of the other inventions of a similar kind which have been already mentioned. It will be shown conclusively hereafter, that Ludlow possessed a ducking stool, and the probability is that the whole of these names, ducking stool, cucking stool, cuck stool,



and gumble stool, were intended when they were used to refer to nothing more than what is perhaps better known as the ducking stool. If this supposition be correct, an excellent illustration will be furnished of the opinion before advanced, that the ducking stool, for some centuries at least, was indiscriminately called by a variety of names, which may, or may not, in more remote times, have signified things of a totally different kind.

The earliest mention of the gumble stool at Ludlow which has been discovered, is on April 7, in the year 1603, when, in the Bailiff's accounts, a charge was made for money paid to a carpenter for work done at the gates and gumble stool.<sup>1</sup> Closely following upon this, in the same year, a person named Walker was paid a sum of 3s. for his pains in putting three women upon the gumble stool,<sup>2</sup> and on the day following a further sum of 6d. was paid to Richard Smith, for the hire of horses to draw the gumble stool,<sup>3</sup> thus establishing the fact, that, in any event, it was a movable concern of some kind. Some years later, a sum of 3s. was paid for the drawing of the gumble stool from the Teme bridge to the Guildhall.<sup>4</sup> This charge for bringing the gumble stool from the bridge over the river Teme, seems to show that it had been used in the river for ducking.

In the year 1661 the energies of the persons entrusted with the execution of the punishment were evidently

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|---|------------------|---|--------------|
| 1 | April 7, 1603 :— | “Pd to Thomas Clarke Carpenter by his bill for his worke donne about the gates & gumble stooole                           | 0 27s. 10d.” |
| 2 | July 27, 1603 :— | “Paid to Walker for his paynes in putting 3 woomen on the gumble stooole  | 0 3s. 0d.”   |
| 3 | July 28, 1603 :— | “Pd to Rich <sup>d</sup> Smith for his horses to drawe the gumble stooole   | 0 0s. 6d.”   |
| 4 |                  | “Paid, the 12 <sup>th</sup> daie of November for the drawinge of the gumble stooole from the teame bridge to the Gildhall | 0 3s. 0d.”   |

used too freely, for a charge of sixpence, for getting what is called the cucking stool out of the brook, appears in the borough accounts.<sup>1</sup> Thus, it seems clear that in Ludlow the cucking stool (if, indeed, the term is not meant to designate what is better understood as the ducking stool) was used for immersion, and that, on the occasion referred to, all control over it was lost, by its being pushed too great a distance into the water. It is to be hoped that some unfortunate scold did not meet with her death at the hands of a furious and enraged populace.

In the year 1664, the gumble stool again needed repairs, and 5s. was paid for mending it, materials, and labour.<sup>2</sup>

In the reign of Queen Anne, two most important and curious events occurred. In the first place, the grand jury, by means of a presentment to Quarter Sessions, dated April 23, 1703, charged the Chamberlain of the town with not making a gumble stool,<sup>3</sup> and shortly afterwards, the petty jury, appointed for the Corve Street Ward, being zealous in the discharge of its duties, and evidently not altogether unmindful of the salutary effect of this punishment, and perhaps of the terror excited by the mere existence of the contrivance, also made a presentment to the Court of Quarter Sessions, and accused the Chamberlain with several omissions of duty, namely, with not keeping the bridge and the Street in good repair, and with not providing a gumble stool, and moreover ordered this important functionary to pay the large sum of £2 10s. for his culpable

<sup>1</sup> 1661:—"For getting ye cucking stoole  
out of ye brooke ... 0 0s. 6d."

<sup>2</sup> 1664:—"For mending of ye gumble  
stolle & for timber and work ... 0 5s. 0d."

<sup>3</sup> April 23, 1703:—"The Chamberlaine for not reparaireng the  
Towne Gates & for not making a gumble stoole & for not rayleing the  
Millfleen of Castle Mills.

They present the Chamberlaine for letting the pound go out of  
repair and for want of a gumble stoole."

neglect.<sup>1</sup> This presentment may still be seen in the records, and immediately underneath it, and upon the same roll, the order of the Court made upon it has been inserted in the handwriting of some other person than that by which the presentment was written. By this order, the Chamberlain was directed to make a gumble stool by the next Court Leet, to be holden for the said town and liberty. The order had its desired effect upon the Chamberlain, who was not long in complying with it. Soon after its date, one Dorothy Williams, was awarded this ignominious punishment in the new gumble stool, for being a common scold, and abuser of her neighbours, and she was so punished according to the sentence.<sup>2</sup>

The next entry discovered mentions a ducking stool. On June 3, 1721, only a few years after the death of Queen Anne, a charge of 1s. 2d. is made for repairing a ducking stool.<sup>3</sup>

Again, in the year 1768, a cuck stool is mentioned, and a sum of 2s. expended in a lock for it,<sup>4</sup> from which charge it would appear that the offenders were secured in the stool by means of a lock.

In the same year, the constable of the town was paid 1s. 2d. for ducking a prisoner.<sup>5</sup> If any further evidence were needed, that there was at Ludlow at least one stool

<sup>1</sup> "Item:—Wee p'sent ye Chamberlaine for not keping ye Brig and ye streat in good repair & likewise for not keeping a Gumble Stoole and doo pay a summe of ... .. £2 10s. Od."

Then follows in a different handwriting:—"To make a Gumble Stoole by the next Court leete to be holden for the said Town & libty."

<sup>2</sup> "Ordered that Dorothy Williams be put upon Munday next between eleven and twelve of the clock on the Gumble Stoole for a common scould and abuser of her neighbours.

Munday:—Put according to ye sentence."

<sup>3</sup> June 3, 1721:—"Paid for repaireing ye ducking  
stoole ... .. 0 1s. 2d."

<sup>4</sup> 1768:—"Paid for a locke for cuck stoole ... .. 0 2s. Od."

<sup>5</sup> 1768:—"Paid ye constable for ducking a  
p'soner ... .. 0 1s. 2d."

in which duckings were carried out, it is here supplied. The extract also shows by whom the residue of the punishment was inflicted, and what was about the price paid for its infliction.

The foregoing extracts from the Ludlow records, quite apart from their local interest, form an extremely valuable contribution to the general history of the ducking stool, and furnish a variety of information, unequalled, with a few exceptions, by the records of any other town in England. It is seldom that so many particulars can be given from the extracts of the records of any one place, and it is more seldom still that such a variety of designations as are contained in the Ludlow documents can be met with in the records of a single borough.

No trace of a ducking stool at Bishop's Castle has been found in the records, but the different accounts contain some curious charges for the maintenance of a pool in the town. These charges invariably appear with other sums paid for work done to the town stocks, which would lead to a suspicion that the pool referred to may possibly have been a ducking pool.

There is a tradition among the old inhabitants of Newport that a ducking stool was used there many years ago, but reliable evidence of the former existence or application to a scold of such a contrivance in that town cannot now be met with, and nothing further than this traditionary statement, which must be accepted for what it is worth, remains at the present day. The other usual engines of punishment were used at Newport, and it is therefore extremely probable that there was also a ducking stool. Where a pillory was set up, a ducking stool generally accompanied it. The former invention was used to a comparatively recent date at Newport.

There is a slight reference to a tumbrel at the village of Acton Burnell. In the reign of King Edward I., Philip Burnel claimed at the assizes, not only the correction of the assize of bread, and beer, and the pillory, but also the punishment of a tumbrel, with a market to

be held on every Lord's Day in every week at the Manor of Acton Burnell.<sup>1</sup>

Villages very frequently possessed a ducking stool, or tumbrel, and this is not the only reference to the contrivance in connection with a Shropshire village.

The important Manor of Prees, which still retains some vestiges of its ancient status, was, as already pointed out, in former times the subject of episcopal rule of a decidedly lenient character, and as an argument upon a *quo warranto*, issued in the year 1292, against the Bishop of Lichfield, as to his having gallows, holding assize of bread and beer, and holding pleas of forbidden distress, and pleas of the Crown in Prees, it was said, among other things, that the Bishop did not possess a tumbrel, nor did he proceed to execution of judgment against trespassers in the assize of bread and beer, but let them go unpunished after exacting some pecuniary fine.<sup>2</sup> This line of argument was apparently regarded as a strong one. It is recorded that the hearing of the cause was adjourned to Lichfield for further consideration, but it does not appear to have been resumed. An important inference may, however, be fairly drawn from this report. The tumbrel was looked upon as absolutely necessary to the very existence of a free court and gallows, and its absence upon the occasion in question furnished the promoters of the *quo warranto* with material for arguing that these privileges had no legal existence at Prees. Whether or not the Bishop, after this attack upon him, thought it expedient to prevent such an argument being advanced against him in future by providing a tumbrel, unfortunately does not appear.

There is also slight mention of a tumbrel at Worthen. At the assizes of 1292, the jurors representing the Manor, in answer to a question, *de libertatibus*, said that Peter Corbet claimed certain rights, or alleged

<sup>1</sup> Dukes' *Antiquities of Shropshire*, p. 285.

<sup>2</sup> Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, vol. ix., p. 246.

rights in Worthen and Shelve, and in the said Manors he had emends of the assize of bread and beer, pillory and tumbrel.<sup>1</sup>

The foregoing notes are sufficient to prove conclusively that in years past there were several ducking stools, or inventions of a like description, in Shropshire, and it may be added, without fear of contradiction, that at one time a much larger number of these contrivances than can now be pointed out must have been in constant use in the county. It has been shown that many facts relating to these instruments have been placed upon record in such a manner as to leave it beyond question that they are reliable and authentic notes. If, then, the existence of so many of them has been duly recorded, it is not too much to assert that time, which never fails to throw a gradual obscurity round unrecorded events, has in this case, as in all others, sufficed to destroy all evidence, documentary, and certainly oral, of many additional ducking stools, or other like inventions, which were formerly used to punish the shrews, and check the violent-tempered women resident in the county of Salop.

It is difficult to fix any particular year as being that in which the punishment of the ducking stool was discontinued, because not being abolished by Act of Parliament, it was inflicted in various places to different dates, but speaking generally, the latter part of the last century may be given. Even before this time the unsuitability of the punishment had been recognized in many places, and its abolition decreed.

The fact that it did not require the fiat of a statute to sweep it away may be accepted as some evidence of the public disfavour with which it was for many years prior to its actual extinction regarded in this country.

In Shropshire very many years have passed by since the ducking stool or any of the other similar inventions were used.

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<sup>1</sup> Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, vol. xi., p. 98.

At Leominster the punishment appears to have struggled severely for existence. So recently as the year 1809, a female named Jenny Pipes, alias Jane Corran, was drawn through the town on the ducking stool, and actually ducked in the water near Kenwater Bridge by order of the Magistrates.

When it was that a scolding woman ceased to be a legal common nuisance is not at all clear. An Act of Parliament was not required to abolish the offence. Time itself effectually worked the improvement, and as the public gradually became mindful of the unnecessary cruelty of punishing women for such a petty delinquency, the ducking stool became less and less frequently used, until, at length, increased regard for the gentler sex achieved a complete triumph, and the indictment of a scold and her cruel punishment after conviction both became numbered with the past. At the present time there is no offence exactly corresponding with the ancient technical crime of being a common scold, but even now the necessity for preventing the tongue being used for a purpose for which it was clearly never intended is duly provided for, and in most boroughs, as in Shrewsbury for instance, there is a bye-law making abusive or insulting language in the streets, whether by man or woman, an offence punishable by fine.

It is a significant fact, that a far greater number of women than men are annually fined for breaking this useful rule for the maintenance of due order in public thoroughfares, and this would lead to the belief that in the matter of using the tongue time has caused little, if any, appreciable improvement.

When the language travels beyond mere scolding, or abuse, and assumes the shape of a threat, the offender may now be, and frequently is, ordered to find sureties of the peace. These remedies seem fully to answer all ordinary purposes in England, but in America, a woman may still be charged, as of old, with being a common scold. It was only on October 15, 1884, that an

American newspaper<sup>1</sup> for that day recorded that at the Quarter Sessions, holden on the previous day, Maria Price, a coloured woman, was convicted of being a scold.

Whether it was in remembrance of this old observance, or not, cannot be said, but it is nevertheless a fact that, not many years ago, a man, for an offence against public morality, was forcibly taken hold of by the mob, and soused several times in a pond near to Shrewsbury.

Such then is a short history of the ducking stool.

Whether or not the punishment can be proved to have been productive of any lasting benefit to the community, those now living cannot well say.

It is an acknowledged fact, even now, that the most difficult thing in the universe to manage is a woman's tongue.

In this age it is almost too much to imagine the Government, condescending to doom an old scold of a distant provincial town, to the cucking stool, for speaking a few unseemly words against the Queen. Equally absurd would it be to suppose that for scolding, or indeed for an offence of a much graver nature, a woman in this our year of grace would be suffered to be cruelly ducked in the stool, beneath the waters of some muddy pond or stream. Such a step at the present day would be met with so much well-deserved derision from the public press, that the cucking stool, if it existed, would be regarded as a pinnacle of fame, rather than as a stool for repentance.

Truly, it may be said that it is only in the long course of ages that the advance of civilization is marked, only a comparison of one age with another, which can tell us in what direction we are progressing.

The punishment, from the point of view of the centuries in which it was employed, was certainly very light, though anyone who should now propose to revive it would be execrated for his cruelty, or

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<sup>1</sup> *The Philadelphia Ledger.*



regarded as a lunatic. It is a matter for surprise to the present generation that so disgusting a punishment could ever have been asked for by husbands or neighbours, inflicted by the authorities, and tolerated by the people. To those now living it cannot appear otherwise, than as a cruel and vindictive punishment; but it must be remembered that they have the good fortune to live, at a time when excessive tenderness, rather than mercilessness, is the characteristic of the age. The real contrast is not between the ducking stool and the present punishment for abusive language, but between a time when cruelty was a part of the national character, when crowds gloated with eager eyes over any public punishment, and the latter half of the nineteenth century. It is because compassion has grown stronger, that we do not now torture women with the ducking stool—that we act in direct opposition to the practices of our forefathers, who delighted in the infliction of torture, and who confounded manliness with the absence of feeling. If one of those forefathers were to rise from the grave, and challenge us to prove that our views of life are better than his, we should signally fail to convince him. Our laws, and our habits, are more or less in accord with our prevailing sentiments; the laws and habits of his time were more or less in accord with the prevailing sentiments of his contemporaries.

No one regarding the punishment of the ducking stool from a modern point of view could extenuate it; no one who has made himself familiar with the past could see in it anything exceptionally bad.

The British intellect has long been remarkable for mechanical inventions; in our time, fortunately, it devotes itself to nothing more cruel than the manufacture of engines of war.

References to the ducking stool remain a curious monument of a state of society, now happily, no longer existing.

## THE BRANK OR SCOLD'S BRIDLE.

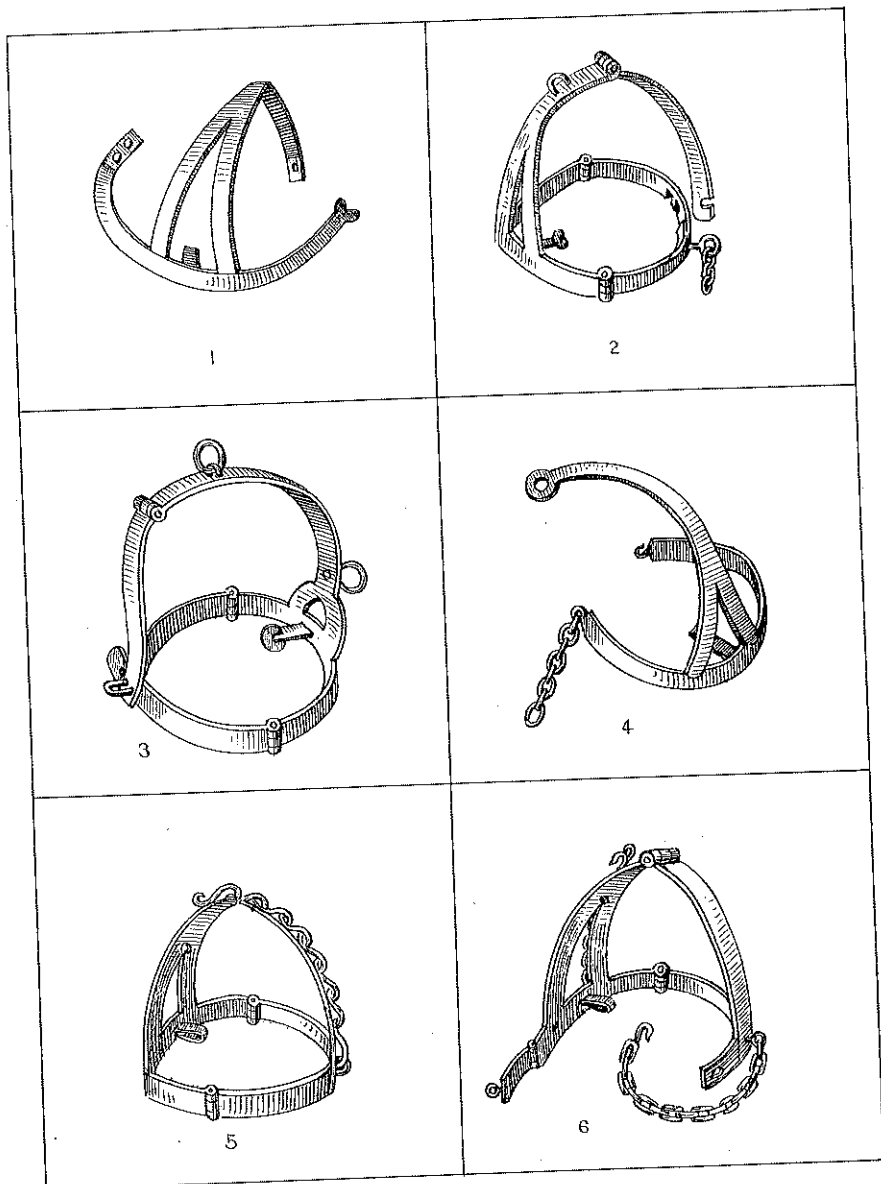
THE brank or scold's bridle was one of the most extraordinary instruments of punishment ever invented by man, even in his most barbarous days. The contrivance is most frequently termed the brank, but several other designations, as the scold's bridle, or gossip's bridle, have been given to it, and in the *Memorials of Shrewsbury*,<sup>1</sup> the writer of that work, in referring to the local brank, calls it simply "a bridle." It will be gathered from the name given to it that it served very much the same purpose as the ducking stool. It was used almost exclusively for curing, or attempting to cure, women of that privilege which has been facetiously termed an "hereditary complaint," scolding. It would appear that in the seventeenth century, and later, the ducking stool was superseded to a certain extent by the brank. Connoisseurs were enthusiastic in asserting that the new invention possessed great advantages over the ancient invention, and one learned authority of the period<sup>2</sup> even advocated its use on the ground of humanity, and gravely stated that he looked upon it as much to be preferred to the cucking stool, which not only endangered the health of the party, but also gave the tongue liberty between every dip, to neither of which the brank was at all liable.

That the ducking stool is of much more ancient origin than its successor, the brank, is an admitted fact. The former was certainly in existence in the time of the Saxons, but no earlier authenticated mention of the latter in England has been discovered than that which occurs in the records of the Corporation of Macclesfield under the date of the year 1623. In Scotland there are traces of its use at an earlier date; indeed the punishment is said by some authorities to

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<sup>1</sup> Second Edition, p. 154.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Plott, in his *History of Staffordshire*.



SHROPSHIRE BRANKS.

- |                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Oswestry (Town)  | 4. Market Drayton (Manorial) |
| 2. Oswestry (Union) | 5. Shrewsbury (closed)       |
| 3. Whitchurch.      | 6. Shrewsbury (open)         |

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100 22

have been of Scotch origin, and to have gradually worked its mischievous way over the border, and so to have extended itself throughout England, but it is more likely to have been of continental origin, and assimilated partly to the military punishments of the period, and partly to those employed by the agents of the Inquisition during the Spanish ascendancy in Germany and Flanders. There is one specimen at Ludlow, and there are several examples in other towns in England, all of a decidedly foreign appearance. These would appear in some small degree to bear out the truth of this statement, but whichever country may have been responsible for inventing it, and there may well be considerable doubt upon the point, the use of the brank was general in all the counties of England, and records referring to it in various ways occur in very many of the old accounts and documents of numerous places. Actual examples of the invention are fairly numerous, in fact, plentiful, as compared with the other instruments of punishment which were contemporaneous with it. No less a number than ten branks can now be pointed to as having been formerly used in the county of Salop, and fortunately seven of them have been preserved, and may be seen to this day, a sufficient proof of the popularity and frequency of the punishment in earlier times.

A few words will suffice to explain in a general way the nature of the instrument, and the manner in which, under the direction and supervision of a constable or other authority, it was formerly applied to garrulous females.

A framework of iron, somewhat resembling a kind of cage, and a little larger than a woman's head from the crown to the chin, was constructed with a ring or hoop at the bottom. Affixed to the inside of the front portion of the ring or hoop, was a gag, or tongue plate, or occasionally something more dangerous, as a sharp cutting knife, or point, to enter the mouth, and to

compress the tongue, and thus prevent its natural movement in talking. Just above the gag or tongue plate was an aperture through which the nose of the wearer of this disagreeable head-gear protruded, and the ring or hoop at the bottom was hinged on one or either side to admit of the ready adjustment of the instrument upon the head of the unfortunate scold.

The mode of putting it on was simple enough, and was invariably carried out by a constable, or some other duly appointed official. It was first opened by undoing the ring or hoop, the head was then placed in its proper position, with the gag or tongue-plate forced securely into the mouth, and the nose protruding through the space above. The ring or hoop was then closed and fastened, and thus the brank would be securely fixed for the period occupied in the execution of the sentence. A padlock was generally used to secure the ring or hoop, and to some portion of the brank a chain was attached, to facilitate the leading of the victim, or for fastening her in some conspicuous position.

With this frightful cage upon her head, and necessarily deprived of the power of speech, the miserable offender was led through the streets of the district in which she resided, in the charge of the constable, the bellman, or the beadle, or perhaps hooked to the pillory, the market-cross, or the whipping-post, as a public example to other noisy and scolding females. After enduring the punishment for the appointed time, the poor wretch was allowed to depart, often in a fainting condition, and with her tongue seriously cut, to be insulted and made the subject of disagreeable comment by the populace for a considerable period to come.

The punishment in question was not confined to the scolding women of towns and other places. Refractory paupers were visited with its penalties, and a scold's bridle was for many years a recognized

instrument of correction in workhouses. The workhouses at Oswestry and Prees Heath, respectively, possessed a brank. At Whitechurch, the same brank was used for the town and workhouse, and at Market Drayton, a brank, formerly the property of the Dodcot Union, is still preserved, as a memento of how discipline was maintained among paupers in bye-gone days.

The ladies cannot be said to have always had the monopoly of the erewhile popular gag. In one or two instances at least, and doubtless in many unrecorded cases, the brank was employed to reduce to silence the tongue of one of the sterner sex. It is related that in the year 1799, at Nottingham, James Brodie, a blind beggar, who was subsequently executed for the murder of his boy guide, was very disorderly whilst in prison, and accordingly, the brank was used to do for him, what he was himself unable to do, namely, to hold his tongue. Another instance of the punishment of a male pauper, with one of the local branks will be mentioned hereafter.

It will have been observed from the description of the punishment, that it bore a striking resemblance to almost every other ancient punishment, in the undue publicity with which it was invariably accompanied, but in one most important particular it differed materially from its contemporaries. It was illegal. Not illegal, perhaps, in the full sense in which an unlawful punishment would be regarded at the present day, because provincial towns in former times were practically, and almost entirely, ruled by mayors, bailiffs, constables, or justices, who maintained their power, and kept their people in awe, pretty much by such means as they in their discretion thought to be best calculated to promote peace and order; but illegal inasmuch as the punishment was, so to speak, a modern innovation, which had no such claim to antiquity, or immemorial usage, as the pillory or ducking stool, and which had not been in any way recognised by the legis-

lature, or adopted by statute. It was, in fact, one of those cruel means by which, quite irrespective of legality, authority was preserved, and power vindicated, at the expense of all that was just, and seemly, and rational.

The seven Shropshire branks which still remain are an extremely interesting collection, and, to the honour of former Salopians be it said, as a whole, they are of a harmless description, and not calculated to inflict injuries of a serious character upon those unfortunate persons by whom they were formerly worn.

The Shrewsbury brank does not appear to be very old. It is made entirely of iron, and consists of a ring or hoop, hinged on either side, and provided with suitable fastenings. To the back of the ring or hoop a band of iron is fixed. This band is bent and arranged so as to pass over the top of the head, and down the forehead, to a point between the eyes, where it is forked almost in the shape of a triangle, to admit the nose, and the two ends of the fork are then fastened to the edge of the ring or hoop, on either side of the mouth. Inside the front of the ring or hoop, a short plain piece of iron is placed as a gag or tongue-plate, while to the back a chain is attached on the outside, for leading or hooking the victim as the case may require. This bridle was, at one time, in constant use in Shrewsbury, and there are those yet living whose memories are sufficiently good to carry them back to the days when the effects of the application of the brank in question were to be seen, rather than, as now, imagined. It was for many years kept in the Mayor's Court, at the Guildhall, and when its use for scolds had ceased, it was carefully hung up with the old civic sword, over the chair usually occupied by the Mayor. Not many years ago, the Mayor's Court was transferred to the building in which it is now held, and then the brank, being, it is presumed, no longer a fit ornament for a Court of Justice, was deposited in the Borough Police Office, where it may still be seen. Although the date at which



it was first used cannot be ascertained, the year in which it was last actually applied can be named with tolerable certainty. In 1846, a woman, then resident in Frankwell, was ordered to undergo this peculiar punishment, for having made use of abusive and opprobrious epithets to a neighbour, and she suffered accordingly. This woman is still living, and she refers to the occasion in question, with evident pride, rather than by evincing any signs of humiliation for the ignominious position in which she was placed. Probably her fellow townspeople had, by the time she suffered, become aware of the fact that so barbarous a punishment was not altogether suited to the spirit of the age, and received her with expressions of sympathy rather than with jeers and laughter.

In the course of an address, delivered during the proceedings connected with the opening of the Salisbury and Wilts Museum, in 1864, Shrewsbury was cited as a town where the brank was used in 1807. Even after its actual use had ceased, its efficacy in subduing evil tongues was not forgotten, for it was not an uncommon event to see it placed upon the table during the sittings of the Court, and it is stated by a credible authority, that its silent teaching, and the memories of the pains it was capable of inflicting, were not without their due effect. A local historian<sup>1</sup> has given a concise but faithful account of this brank. He says—"At the Town Hall is a curious relic, called a '*bradle*,' used in days of yore, as a check for scolding, or noisy women. It consists of a hoop of iron, made to encircle the neck, from this proceeds an arch, with a plate or '*gag*,' to enter the mouth, by which the tongue is so compressed, that the most loquacious scold is at once rendered unintelligible."

There are two excellent examples of the brank at Oswestry. One is the property of the Corporation,

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Henry Pidgeon.

and the other is preserved in the store room of the Workhouse, where it was formerly used for the correction of the inmates. The town brank is one of very ordinary construction, but not by any means so neatly made as that at the Workhouse. It bears a striking resemblance to the Shrewsbury brank in the similarity of its gag, or tongue plate, and in several other unimportant details it is not unlike the bridle at Shrewsbury, although generally more roughly made. It would appear to be very many years since it was last used, for, beyond the fact that it still exists, the history attached to it is unknown, and information even of its threatened application is not procurable. The Workhouse brank is a very interesting specimen. It is in a remarkably fine state of preservation, and resembles the other branks in the county, except with respect to the gag or tongue-plate, which is small, and of a somewhat peculiar shape. It was used in years gone by for the correction of unmanageable paupers, and the maintenance of due order in the house. A comparatively modern instance of its application is upon record. About seventy years ago, Mary Jones, an inmate of the house, was guilty of the serious offence of "mobbing the steward" or master. It seems that she threw a basin of porridge into the face of one Mr. Phillips, the then master, or steward, whose wrath was so much aroused at this gross breach of discipline, that he then and there ordered the punishment of the brank to be inflicted upon the offender, and accordingly, in the dining hall, and in the presence of her assembled companions, the sentence was carried into effect.

Another good specimen of this instrument is now in the possession of the Rector of Whitchurch. This brank was formerly used by the town and Union authorities in common for the preservation of peace, and the maintenance of discipline. It is made entirely of iron, and in the ordinary shape, but in the end of the gag or tongue-plate a revolving wheel is neatly inserted. This wheel is now quite smooth, but it has

the appearance of having originally been notched, and inasmuch as this custom was not by any means uncommon, the probability is that when first made it was not of that harmless description which its present state would imply. An interesting manuscript describes this brank as having been kept by the constable of the town "for the purpose of punishing those disorderly women who scold their husbands."<sup>1</sup> When it ceased to be officially used cannot be exactly stated, but an instance has been mentioned in which the late Sir Robert Hill passed sentence upon a woman, that for some petty offence she should be branked, and accordingly she was dragged through the streets of Whitchurch, with this bridle upon her head, followed by a crowd of boys and others shouting, and laughing, and jeering at her unfortunate position. It is clear, therefore, that it was used in the town well into the present century.

About forty years ago it was kept in the Workhouse, but was then never actually used in any case, although the attention of foul-mouthed paupers was frequently called to it, and its application threatened unless fewer words were used, or some more musical to the ear. It disappeared from the Workhouse upon the enlargement of that building in 1853, but was fortunately discovered some years afterwards in the office of the magistrates. Subsequently it passed into the possession of the present Rector of Whitchurch, in whose custody it now is.

Another local brank was that belonging to the old Workhouse at Prees Heath, which was removed many years ago to the Wem Union. This bridle remained at Wem for a time, but a few years ago it was taken away and cannot now be found. It was much used in former days, and was last applied to a loqua.

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<sup>1</sup> See the *Whitchurch Parish Magazine* for the month of April, 1867.

cious old woman then an inmate of the Workhouse. She is still living, but is now upwards of seventy years of age.

Much Wenlock formerly had its scold's bridle, but like many others it has disappeared. A gentleman of that town, in writing to a local newspaper<sup>1</sup> some years ago, said, "I have often seen, forty years ago, an old woman named Judy Cookson led through the streets at Wenlock with the scold's bridle on her unruly tongue."

There was once a town bridle at Ludlow, which was frequently applied, but it has also been lost. However, in this case, the absence of one instrument is fairly recompensed by the existence of another of a most interesting description. In the Museum of the town may be seen a curious contrivance, described as an instrument of torture, brought from the Castle. It is stated to have been used for the branding of prisoners in the cheek, and no doubt this was one of the purposes for which it was employed, but it was certainly also used as a sort of brank. It is of a decidedly foreign appearance, but not by any means a solitary example of the kind in England. The front is precisely like an iron mask, with apertures for the eyes and mouth, and a square hole to facilitate the burning in the cheek.

No historical particulars are known respecting this brank.

At Market Drayton there are two bridles. One is the property of the lord of the manor, and the other formerly belonged to the Dodcot Union. They are both now kept at the Corbet Arms Hotel, where the manorial court is periodically held. The former is a good example, made wholly of iron. The special characteristic of it is the peculiar construction of the gag, or tongue-plate, which is unusually long, having at the

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<sup>1</sup> *The Shrewsbury Chronicle.*

end three raised pieces of sharp iron, which could not fail to pin the tongue, and effectually silence the noisiest brawler. Portion of the chain is gone, but its place supplied by a leathern strap, which makes the fastening complete. There is no evidence of this brank having actually been used for many years, but there is testimony to the fact that forty or fifty years ago it was brought out as a warning to termagant market women. Quite recently a person, for curiosity's sake, was tempted to try it on for a few moments, when it was soon proved beyond all question that it had lost none of its ancient power. The wearer attempted to talk, but could only roar, and motion with his finger to be set free, and when this was done he found that his tongue was cut by coming in contact with the gag, or tongue-plate.

The other Market Drayton bridle is a simple contrivance, but like that at Whitchurch, it has a revolving wheel at the end of the gag or tongue-plate. It is fastened with a padlock, while at the bottom a chain is attached for leading or hooking the offender in manner already described. Very many years have passed by since it was used, but one notorious instance is not forgotten in which a man, when wearing it, became so unmanageable that he was fastened to a grate by the chain, and there left for some considerable time.

The foregoing are the only reliable local instances of this interesting invention which have been discovered. Many additional examples must of necessity have been lost, thrown away, or destroyed, as being of no further use.

Being illegal, the punishment did not require any Act of the Legislature to effect its abolition, and gradually it became less and less used, until it was entirely abandoned.

It may be stated, without fear of contradiction, that sentence of the brank was seldom awarded after the year 1825.

In numerous places the punishment had been discontinued for many years before that date. Everyone must regret that it should ever have been used at all. It furnishes a melancholy index of the barbarism which prevailed in this country at no very remote period.

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HISTORICAL RECORDS OF NEWPORT,  
CO. SALOP.

By EDWARD JONES.

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THE BURGESSES—(*Continued.*)

THOMAS REYNOLDS, in his Will dated February 7th, 1465, and proved September 24th, 1466, describes himself as a "cutteler," and desires his body to be buried in the chapel of St. Mary, in the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas of Newport. He left three sons, William, John, and Thomas, and two daughters, Agnes and Elizabeth. The witnesses to the will are Master Richard Porter, of Newport, Master Bassh, and Thomas Salter. Two of the sons, Thomas and John, are mentioned in the following Deeds.

Saier Broke, of Clarely, co. Salop, gent., bound to Thomas Reynolds, resident canon of the Cathedral Church of Lichfield, and John Reynolds, clerk, in £20, to be paid at the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist next to come. Dated 15th Nov., 6 Henry VII. Condition that John and Thomas Reynolds enjoy an annual rent of 13/4 given them by Saier Broke out of lands in Newport, as by the Deed after mentioned.

Saier Broke, of Clarely, co. Salop, gives to Thomas Reynolds, resident canon of Lichfield Cathedral, and John Reynolds, clerk, a yearly rent of 8/- out of a tenement, with a garden adjoining, with a parcel of court yard extending from the "ustrina" (kiln) once of Peter Wales, up to the rivulet running to the pond of Newport, which tenement is in Newport, between the

tenement of the said Peter and that late of Edmund Cabote, extending in length from the highway to the said rivulet, which rent and garden descends by right hereditary after the death of Matilda Stuch, widow, wife of William Stuch, to hold, as the Indenture between Matilda Stuch and John Mytley the younger, of Newport, more fully sets forth. Witnesses, John Salter, the elder, John Salter, the younger, Richard Maxfield, William Umfreston, William Boston, Richard Couper, and others. Dated at Newport 13th November, 7 Henry VII.

Saier Broke, of Clarely, co. Salop, granted to Thomas Reynolds, Canon resident of the Cathedral Church of Lichfield, and John Reynolds, Clerk, a certain annuity or yearly rent of  $5/4$  yearly, to be paid them on the Feast of St. Michael, the Archangel, out of two tenements of the said Saier in Newport, one lying between the tenement of William Glover and the tenement of the College of St. Mary of Newport, the other between the tenement of the College and the tenement of Stephen Kemsey, to hold to the grantees, their heirs and assigns for ever. Dated 13th November, 1491.

Thomas and John Reynolds, Clerks, attorned Richard Greyfox of Lichfield, Clerk, their attorney, to take peaceable possession of a yearly rent of 8/- from a tenement late of John Mittley, of Newport, and of  $5/4$  yearly in two tenements of Sare, otherwise Sarei (Sayer) Broke, of Clarely, son and heir of Thomas Broke, late of Newport, which tenement lies between the Hospicium (Almshouse) of William Glover, of Newport, and the tenement of the Guild of St. Mary there, another tenement lies between the said Guild's tenement and the tenement of Stephen Kemsey. Dated at Newport on Monday next after the feast of St. Bricius the Confessor, 7 Henry VII.

By Deed dated 23rd June, 1496, Saier Broke, of Clarely, gentleman, granted and confirmed to Thomas Reynolds, Clerk, Canon resident of the Cathedral Church of Lichfield, and John Reynolds, Clerk and



Canon of the Cathedral Church of York, one messuage with the curtelage to the same belonging, lying in the village of Newport, standing between the house of John Chaloner on the one part, and the cottage of William Glover on the other part: And also a certain pasture called the Hen Meadow, and one croft called the Hen Croft, lying at the end of the said cottage, with all things belonging: And also nineteen selions<sup>1</sup> of land lying in the field of the village of Newport, called North Broom, of which six lay between the lands belonging to the College of St. Mary, near Calvercroft, of the one part, and the land of Thomas Gervis of the other part; two other selions, lying in breadth between the land of William Yonge, Knight, of the one part, and land of Thomas Gervis on the other part, nigh a way called the Greenway: two other selions lying between the land belonging to the College on the one part, and the land of William Colwich of the other part; three selions stretching in length towards the Moor, nigh a place called Cannel, and in breadth between the land of John Salter of the one part, and the land of Thomas Burghton on the other part; five other selions lying nigh a way which leads to Cannel aforesaid in breadth between the land belonging to the College of the one part, and the land of Thomas Gervis on the other part, and one selion stretching itself in length to Allmen's Meadow, and lying in breadth between the land of John Salter of the one part, and the land of Thomas Burghton on the other part. He also gave to the said Thomas and John an annuity or yearly rent of four shillings, to be received of and in one messuage late of Richard Offley, lying between the lane called Bakkehouse Lane of the one part and the messuage of Fitz John of the other part: And also a yearly rent of two shillings, to be received yearly, out of a messuage of Thomas Maynard, between the tenement of him, the said Saier, in which Lewis Cornes now dwells, on the

<sup>1</sup> A ridge of land between two furrows—of uncertain quantity.

one part, and the tenement of William Colwich of the other part : To hold, &c., of the chief lord, &c., by the services mentioned. And also an annual rent of twelve-pence to be received at the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary out of a messuage lying between the tenements belonging to the Guild of St. Mary of the one part, and a messuage of Thomas Maynard of the other part. Witnesses, Richard Salter, Doctor of Decrees, John Salter, Richard Maxfield, gentleman, Thomas Bayle, George Lee, William Boston, and others. Dated at Newport 23rd June, 11 Henry VII. Saier Broke is bound to Thomas Reynolds, clerk, and John Reynolds, clerk, in £40, payable at the Feast of St. Michael next. Dated 24th June, 11 Henry VII. Condition that Thomas and John hold those lands in Newport which they had of the enfeoffment of the said Saier.

Thomas Reynolds, Canon of Lichfield Cathedral, and John Reynolds, Canon of York Cathedral, appointed John Bromley, of Newport, carpenter, to receive possession in their names of a cottage with courtyard, lying between the burgage of John Chaloner, and the cottage late of William Glover, with a meadow called Hen Meadow, and a croft adjoining the same, eighteen selions of land, lying in the field of Northbroom, three annuities out of a messuage late of Richard Offley, of Thomas Maynard, and of Saier Broke, of Claverley, lying in the town of Newport. Dated on Saturday next after the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, 11 Henry VII.

Thomas Reynolds, Clerk and Canon of Lichfield Cathedral, and John Reynolds, Clerk and Canon of York Cathedral, give to Richard Salter, Doctor of Decrees, Roger Salter, Warden of the Collegiate Church of Newport, John Salter, Richard Salter, William Reynolds, Thomas, son of William Reynolds, Thomas Reynolds, clerk, John Bromley, William Bromley, William Boston, and George Mason, all those lands and tenements, rents and services, and pastures with

all appurtenances in the town and fields of Newport, Aston Magna, and Aston Parva, which they lately had of the gift of Saier Broke, son and heir of Thomas Broke. Witnesses: William Chetwyn, William Colwich, Thomas Bayly, John Chaloner, Robert Bendebowe, and others. Dated at Newport, 1st July, 11 Henry VII.

Thomas Reynolds, canon, &c., and John Reynolds, canon, &c., appoint Richard Smith, clerk, as their attorney, &c., to deliver possession according to the aforesaid Deed. Dated 1st July, 11 Henry VII.

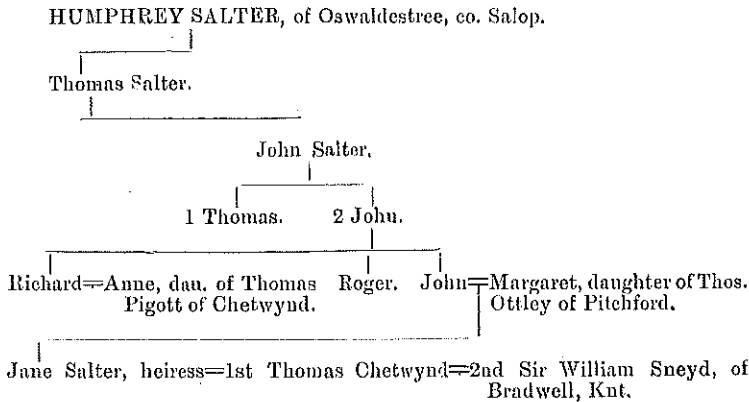
By Indenture, dated 1st July, 1496, made between Thomas Reynolds, Clerk and Canon of the Cathedral Church of Lichfield, and John Reynolds, Clerk and Canon of the Cathedral Church of York, of the one part, Mr. Richard Salter, Clerk and Canon of the Cathedral Church of Lichfield, Roger Salter, Clerk and Warden of the College of Newport, John Salter, Richard Salter, William Reynolds, Thomas, the son of William Reynolds, Thomas Reynolds, clerk, John Bromley, William Royston, and George Mason, of the other part, it was witnessed that whereas the said Richard Salter and Roger, and the others aforesaid, had been seized of certain lands and tenements, rents and services, meadows, leasows, and pastures, with the appurtenances lying in the town and fields of Newport, Much Aston and Little Aston in their demesne as of fee; which said lands and tenements they had of the gift, grant, and feoffment of the said Thomas and John Reynolds as by Deed of feoffment thereof, dated the day of the date of the said indenture did appear; and which lands, &c., the said Thomas and John Reynolds late had of the gift, grant, and feoffment of Saier Broke, son and heir of Thomas Broke, as by deed, dated 23rd June, 1496, and other Deeds, likewise, by him to the said Thomas and John made, plainly appear: The said feoffment and estate is made by the said Thomas and John Reynolds to the said Richard Salter, Roger Salter, &c., with the rest, was and is made to the

intent following and ensuing that is to wit: First, that the said Richard, with the rest and their heirs, shall content and pay yearly to the churchwardens for the time being, of the said Church of St. Nicholas, of Newport, three shillings and four pence of lawful money of the revenues and profits to be received of the lands and tenements, rents and services, meadows, leasows, and pastures, with the appurtenances, to be employed to the profit and reparation, and all other things as is belonging to the said church; and the said Richard, Roger, &c., with the rest, by that indenture, receive and pay yearly twenty-six shillings and eightpence of lawful money to such one as shall fortune to be appointed receiver thereof, towards the finding and necessary subsistence of four poor people as shall happen and fortune to be abiding (in the Alms-houses) there late made by the said Thomas and John Reynolds, or else to suffer such receivers to levy and make the said sum of revenues and profits of the said lands and tenements to the intent above rehearsed, which poor folks shall pray continually for their (the feoffors) souls, their father's and mother's souls, for their good doers' souls, and all souls whose bones rest in the churchyard of Newport, and all Christian souls. Furthermore, the said Thomas and John Reynolds did ordain and dispose by that present writing, that from thenceforth, as often as it should happen any of the said number of four persons to die, or otherwise depart out of the said alms-houses, that Elinor Reynolds during her life have the disposition and power to provide another into the said alms-houses, such as she can think meetly by her discretion with the good help of John Bromley, and after the decease of the said Elinor, then the said John to have the disposition, &c., and after the death of the said Elinor and John, the warden of the Church of Newport and the churchwardens of the same, for the time being, shall have the ordinance, provision, charge, and government of the aforesaid four poor folks for the time being, and of the receipt of the said money to the

use and profit of the said four poor folks ; and the said Thomas and John Reynolds provided that when eight or seven of the feoffees should decease, two or three of the remaining feoffees should enfeoff other substantial men of the said town of Newport, in the said lands, &c., to the intent and cause that the said four poor folks may yearly be paid the said sum of money of twenty-six shillings and eightpence, and the churchwardens three shillings and fourpence, as above rehearsed.

Thus were the alms-houses of the foundation of William Glover, in 1446, near the churchyard, remodelled, and principally endowed ; but as will appear in due course, further bequests were left for their benefit.

Richard, Roger, and Thomas Salter, above mentioned, belonged to a respectable family long resident in Newport, a member of which William Salter has appeared as witness to a Deed dated at Newport in 1383. From the Heralds' Visitation of Shropshire, in 1623, and Harleian MSS., 1396, is gathered the following pedigree :—



Thomas, son of John Salter, attests the grant of land by the Burgesses of Newport to William Glover, in 1446. His brother John is a witness to a Newport Deed in 1491. This John was Clerk of the Peace for the county of Salop, and on his death in 1492, was

buried with his wife Isabella in Newport Church, where, on a brass plate formerly embedded in the floor, but now affixed to the wall on the south side of the chancel arch, is the following inscription:—"Clericus en pacis custos pacisq: Johnes in cineres vtres Salter iacet hic tumulatus. In festo Marci spiritū xro dedit iste: anno milleno quingenteno mīn octo huic sociat ppr sese coniux Isabella, hiis det solamen cunctor conditor Amen." "Lo, here lies entombed among ancient ashes John Salter clerk of the peace and guardian of the peace; he gave his soul to Christ on the feast of St. Mark in the year one thousand five hundred less eight. Near him in close company lies his wife Isabella herself. May the Creator of all things give them peace. Amen." Their son John, brought up to the profession of the law, appears with the title of *Jurisperitus* in 1520, and with those of *Squyer and Stuard of the new porte* in 1521, in which year he was Sheriff of Shropshire. He was a member of the Council in the Marches of Wales, and filled the office of one of the judges in the Principality. He, too, was buried in Newport Church, where was erected to his memory a finely-executed and elaborately painted alabaster altar tomb, which still has its sides and ends embellished with escutcheons and sculptured figures, though now much defaced. On the top are full length recumbent figures of John Salter and his wife. He is represented in his full judicial costume—a scarlet robe faced with fur. The monument now in the chancel, until the recent restoration of the church, stood behind the chancel door, to which site it had been moved from the western end of the nave during the alterations of the church in 1828. In it then was seen a skeleton of a female, around whose neck was a string of beads and a crucifix. It, however, originally was placed at the east end of the nave, by the south side of the chancel arch, within a Gothic screen of carved oak, portion of which was used in the erection and decoration of the present pulpit. There are some curious stories told about John Salter, one of them being that in his year of office as

Sheriff, he insulted the presiding Judge at the Assizes, and told him that his knowledge of law was about equal to his conceit—a compliment which the Judge did in no way resent, inasmuch as he was known to be *very proud*, and must therefore have been *very learned*.

John Salter resided at the western end of Newport at a mansion still called Salter's Hall. His armorial bearings were, according to Rev. J. B. Blakeway in his *Sheriffs of Shropshire, arg.* 3 pheons points downwards, 2 & 1 *sa.* Fuller, however, gives in his *Worthies, qu.* 10 billets, 4, 3, 2, & 1 *or*, and the *Heralds' Visitation*, 1623, the same with a File of 3 points *arg.* At his death he left an only child, Jane, married to Thomas Chetwynd, and secondly to Sir William Sneyd, of Bradwell, Knt. Whether or not, through this marriage with the Chetwynds, Salter's Hall ultimately became the property of the Earls of Shrewsbury, with whom it remained until the year 1830, when, John, Earl of Shrewsbury, conveyed it to Dr. Milner, as representative of the Roman Catholic Church in England, for its use and enjoyment. It was, indeed, through his benevolence and liberality that the old mansion (in a room of which the daily religious services had been held since their discontinuation in the church of Longford) was then pulled down and the present hall and church erected. It may here be remarked that until the death of the above Earl John, the priest serving this mission was also one of the chaplains to the Shrewsbury family, the late Canon Trovell being the last who held that office. In 1519, one Richard Cartour, of Newport, having contracted debts and offended the law in other respects, fled for protection to the sanctuary of St. John of Beverley, as appears by the following extract from *Sanctuarium Beverlacense*, printed by the Surtees Society:—"Dicto ultimo die maii anno X Henrici octavi Ricardus Cartour nuper de Newporte in comitatu Shroysbere venit ad perpetuam pacem Sancti Johannis Beverlaci pro debito ac pro omnibus aliis causis et juratus est et admissus est ad libertatem predictam. The right of sanctuary seems

to have been granted by the Saxon kings and their successors to several places in England, especially to churches and monasteries. It permitted them to shelter such as had committed felonies, treasons, murders, &c., so that within forty days the criminals acknowledged their faults, and submitted themselves to such penances as the church appointed, and also to banish themselves the kingdom; during which time, if any layman expelled them, he was excommunicated; if a clerk he was made irregular. But after forty days no man might release them. St. John of Beverley had an eminent sanctuary belonging to it which the Saxons called FRIDSTOL, i.e., *sedes pacis*. The actual seat was a stone chair near the altar, on which was this inscription:—"Hæc sedes lapidea freedstool dicitur i.e. *Pacis Cathedra ad quem reus fugiendo perveniens omnimodum habet securitatem* (Cambden.)

In 1527 was granted by Thomas Sotherne and William Deconson, Bailiff, the Burgesses of Newport, and all the Commonalty of Newport, to Robert Spycer, of Newport, mercer, a parcel of void ground in the High Street, next the "*scansile*" of the cemetery of the church, between the market place and the said cemetery, containing in breadth 7 feet, and in length 14 feet, at the yearly rent of sixpence. Deed dated at Newport, 8th February, 18 Henry VIII. In the Liber Regis or Valor Ecclesiasticus—a survey of all ecclesiastical benefices taken by virtue of certain commissioners, 26 Henry VIII., 1534-5. It is stated that the Abbot of Lilleshall had sixteen shillings rent in Newport, but an account six years later puts the same item as £1 6s. 9d. In the Valor, the Church of the "Guild of Newporte" appears with far less than its contemplated revenues, viz, as receiving a salary or pension of £6 13s. 4d. (10 merks) payable by the Seneschall of the said Guild. In 1545, the Collegiate Church of Newport was seized into the King's hands. In 1547 was passed an Act of Parliament, granting "certain chauntries, colleges, free chapels, and the possessions of the same to the



King," 1 Edward VI. c. 14. By section XI. of this statute it was provided that in every place where a guild or fraternity by the foundation, ordinance, or first institution thereof, should, or ought to have kept a grammar school, and so had done since the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel then last past, the Commissioners should have power to assign lands, tenements, and other hereditaments of every such guild and fraternity to remain and continue in succession to a schoolmaster for ever, for and towards the keeping of a grammar school in such manner and form as the said Commissioners should assign or appoint. The Commissioners empowered to make enquiry into the state of Newport College were Sir George Blount, Knight, Reynold Corbet, Richard Forssett, and Richard Cupper, gentlemen. They certified that there was a Grammar School in Newport, and that it had always been kept by Richard Robins, one of the Fellows of the College of Newport, to whom was paid out of the revenues of that college the annual stipend of five pounds. Whether or not any assignment was made, there is no record to say, but it is affirmed on reliable authority that this Grammar School was the origin of the Free English School, which for years was held in the Booth Hall, afterwards in a cottage belonging to the School Trust, and eventually in a building erected in 1843, for the purpose, in the Wellington Road. The title Free English School seems to have been adopted in 1656, when William Adams, one of its benefactors, made greater provision for education by founding a larger institution in Newport, under the appellation of the Free Grammar School.

Whether or not during the eventful and momentous period which had elapsed from 1311 to 1550, the Burgesses of Newport had enjoyed their liberties in as full and as ample a manner as they should have done, according to their charters of incorporation, Sir Thomas Lodge, citizen and Alderman of London, who purchased the moiety of the Lordships of the Manor of Newport

from Edward Twynneho, Esq., in 1550, appears to have looked into their affairs, the result of which was a confirmation of their charters by King Edward VI., during the fourth year of his reign in the following words:—

Pro Burgensib: de } Rex Omnib: ad quos &c. Salt'm: Inspexim:  
 Novo Burgo. } cartam D'ni E. nup: Regis Angl:  
 Primi P'genitoris n'ri de Confirmaco'e f'cam in hec v'ba 'Ed-  
 wardus Dei gr'a Rex Angl: D'ns Hib'n et Dux Aquitanii  
 Archiep'is Ep'is Abbis Priorib: Comitib: Baronib: Justic:  
 Vicecomitib: Prepositis Ministris et fidelib: suis Salt'm: In-  
 spexim: cartam quam D'ns H. quondam Rex Angl: P'genitor  
 n'r fecit Burgensib: suis de Novo Burgo in hec V'ba 'Henricus  
 Rex Angl: et Dux Nor'm et Aquit et Comes Andeg Vice-  
 comitib: et omib: Ministris suis de Salop Shyre Salt'm: Sciatis  
 me concessisse Burgensib: meis de Novo Burgo o'mes lib'tates  
 et r'cas consuetudines suas sicut eas melius et lib'ius h'uerunt  
 tempore Regis H. Ani mei Et ideo p'hibeo nequis sup hoc eis  
 inde iniuriã fac' vel contumeliã: Et si quis de lib'tatib: et con-  
 suetudinib: suis vel in alio eis foris fecit plenar' sine di'one  
 eis inde justic: fac' T. Galfr's Arch' Cantuar' Jo'he Cu'mn et  
 Ra'do de Tamer apud Grenewood. Nos autem concessionem  
 p'd'cam ratam h'entes et g'tam eam p'nob' et hered' n'ris  
 quantum in nob' est p'fatis Burgensib: et eor' hered: et suc-  
 cessorib: Burgensib: ejusdem Burgi in manu n'ra quibusdam  
 de causis jam existentes concedim: et confirmam: sicut carta  
 p'd'ca ronabilit: testat' Pret'ca volentes eisdem Burgensib: ob  
 affecc'oem quam erga Robt'um Levere Burgensem ejusdem  
 Burgi Hospitem n'rm in eodem Burgo h'em: gr'am fa'ce  
 u'biorem concessim: eis eis p'nob: et hered: n'ris q'd ip'i seu  
 eor: he' red: & successores Burgenses ejusdem Burgi de  
 om'ib: bonis et m'cimoniis suis p' totum regnũ et potestatem  
 n'ra a p'etacione muragii panagii pentagii picagii et stallagii  
 impp'm sint quieti hiis testib: Joh'e de Britann Comit:  
 Richernond Adomaro de Valencia Comite Pembrok Gilb'to  
 Pecche Senescallo Hospicii n'ri et al: Dat' p' manu n'ram apud  
 Salop xxiiº die Januarii Anno regni n'ri xvº Nos Autem car-  
 tam p'd'cam ac omnia et singula in eadem contenta rata h'entes  
 et grata ea p' nob: et hered: n'ris quantum in nob: est accep-  
 tam: et approbam: ac ea nunc Burgensib: Burgi p'd'ci et suc-  
 cessorib: suis ratificam: et confirmam: p' u't carta p'd'ca in  
 se ronabilit: testat' In cujus rei &c. T. R. apud Westm: S'cdo  
 die Maii Anno Regni sui quarto'.

In 1565, John Benbow was born in Newport. He

became Deputy Clerk of the Crown in Chancery in 1623, and dying on October 7th, 1625, was buried in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London. It was he who procured the first grant of arms to his family—a family very ancient and worthy, and long resident in Newport. *Sa.* two-stringed bows endorsed in pale *or*, garnished *gu.*, between two bundles of arrows in fesse, three in each of second barbed and headed *arg.*; banded of third. Crest: An harpy close *or* face *ppr.*, head wreathed with a chaplet of flowers *gu.* In the Heralds' Visitation of Shropshire, in 1623, the pedigree does not ascend higher than his great-grandfather Roger Benbow, of Newport, whose son Thomas married Margaret, daughter of Anthony Bayley, of the County of Stafford. They resided at Newport, and were succeeded by their son Thomas Benbow, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Roger Peryns, of Brocton, County Salop. They also resided at Newport, and had a numerous family, among whom were John Benbow, of Newport, "Clarke of y<sup>e</sup> Crowne, 1623," Robert Benbow, of Bolas, and Roger Benbow, of Newport. This Roger had three sons, John, Robert, and Thomas. Thomas was twenty years of age in 1623, and John was the father of John, afterwards Admiral Benbow. Admiral John Benbow, one of the most eminent English seamen mentioned in history, born at Shrewsbury about the year 1650, is thus descended from a Newport family. His father, Colonel John Benbow, and most of his relatives, were much reduced by their loyal adherence to the cause of Charles I., and by the readiness they showed to assist Charles II. in endeavouring to recover his rights when he advanced with his forces from Scotland towards Worcester. Colonel John Benbow eminently distinguished himself both by his loyalty and valour, and was very actively engaged in the battle of Worcester, which was so disastrous to the royal cause. He afterwards fell into the hands of the Parliamentarian troops, and at the same time with Sir Thomas Featherstonhough, and the Earl of Derby was tried by court-martial at Chester for

being in the King's service. They were all condemned, and in order to strike the greater terror in different parts of the country, the Earl of Derby was adjudged to suffer death at Bolton, Sir Thomas to be beheaded at Chester, and Colonel John Benbow to be shot at Shrewsbury. All these sentences were severally put in execution. The Colonel was shot at Shrewsbury, in the Cabbage Garden, afterwards the Bowling Green, near the Castle, and was buried on the left hand going down the middle walk in old St. Chad's Churchyard.

The Commissioners, under the statute of 1 Edward VI., appear to have made no assignment for the benefit of the Grammar School at Newport out of the rents and houses belonging to the late college there. These, according to Rev. J. B. Blakeway's MSS., were granted in 3 Edward VI., 1549, to John Cupper and Richard Trevor. In 1552, however, they reverted to the Crown under the order of the Duke of Northumberland, then chief of the Council of State—that all persons upon whom Chauntry, &c., lands had been bestowed at the commencement of the reign of Edward VI., should restore them to the Crown. On 27th October, 23 Elizabeth, 1582, Her Majesty granted to Edmund Downing and Peter Ashton (amongst other things, large estates in Yorkshire and other counties), all that site of the college of Newport, in the County of Salop, late of the possession of the said college, and lately in the tenure and occupation of Richard Cupper or his assigns, with all rights, members, and appurtenances, rendering to her said Majesty, her heirs and successors (among other things) £15 yearly to be paid for a salary of stipendiary curate of Newport, and a schoolmaster there—that is to say, to the curate £10, and to the schoolmaster £5. Edmund Downing and Peter Ashton, like certain others, Tipper and Daw, Reve and Cotton, &c., were huge farmers of property belonging to the monasteries, of which royalty from time to time took possession, and then sold the same to these farmers for a certain sum, and they in return immediately parted

with the properties at an enormous profit, causing innumerable lawsuits, which lasted not only while they were alive, but long after their deaths. Morant, in the *History of Essex*, calls them "Those greedy hunters after concealed lands." Accordingly Edmund Downing and Peter Ashton, in 1583—the year following the grant to them of the College property—sold it, as appears from the following extract from Close Roll, 1163. This Indenture, made the 22nd February, 25 Elizabeth, between Edmund Downing and Peter Ayshton, gent., on the one part, and John Matthews, of Newport, Salop, yeoman, of the other part, witnessing for a certain sum of lawful money Edmund Downing and Peter Ayshton convey all that the site of the late College of Newporte, Salop, and the garden to the same College, now or late in the tenure of Richard Cupper, or his Assigns, late parcel of the possessions of the late College of Newporte, and all edifices, barns, stables, orchards, &c., within the same town, and all woods, &c. To have and to hold for ever, as of the Manor of East Greenwich, Kent, by fealty only, in free and common soccage, and not in capite or by Knight's service, rendering to the Queen  $6/8$  yearly. Here no mention is made of the payment of £15. This sum they transferred from the above property and charged on the Rectory and Church of Clun, as appears from the following Indenture, taken from Close Roll, 1167, and dated June 7th, 25 Elizabeth, 1583. This Indenture was made June 7th, 25 Elizabeth, between Edmund Downyng and Peter Ashton on the one part, and Thomas Harley, of Brampton Bryan, in Hereford, gent., on the other part. Witnessing for a certain sum of money, Downing and Ashton convey to Harley his heirs and assigns for ever all that the Rectory and Church of Clun, alias Clune, and a portion of the Vicarage of Clune and tithes in Clunbury, and <sup>1</sup> Waterdine, alias Waterdeane, in the county of Salop. The same to be held of the Manor of East

<sup>1</sup> Llanfair Waterdine.

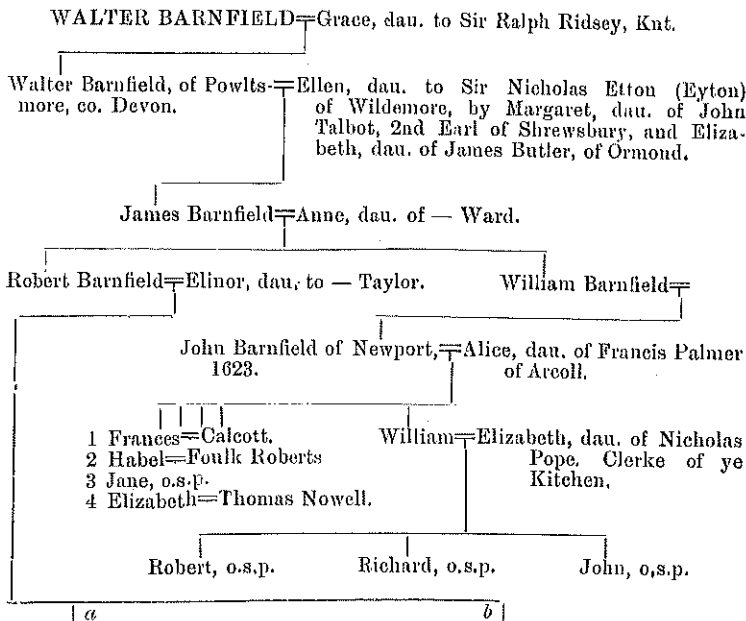
Greenwich, Kent, by fealty only, in free and common soccage, and not in capite nor by Knight's service. Rendering to the Queen £22, and out of the premises in Clun aforesaid £15 yearly, payable for the stipend of a curate of Newport and schoolmaster there,—namely, to the curate £10 and to the schoolmaster £5. The transfer of this charge caused the lawsuit, Attorney General versus Walcott. Trinity Term, 11 Charles I.

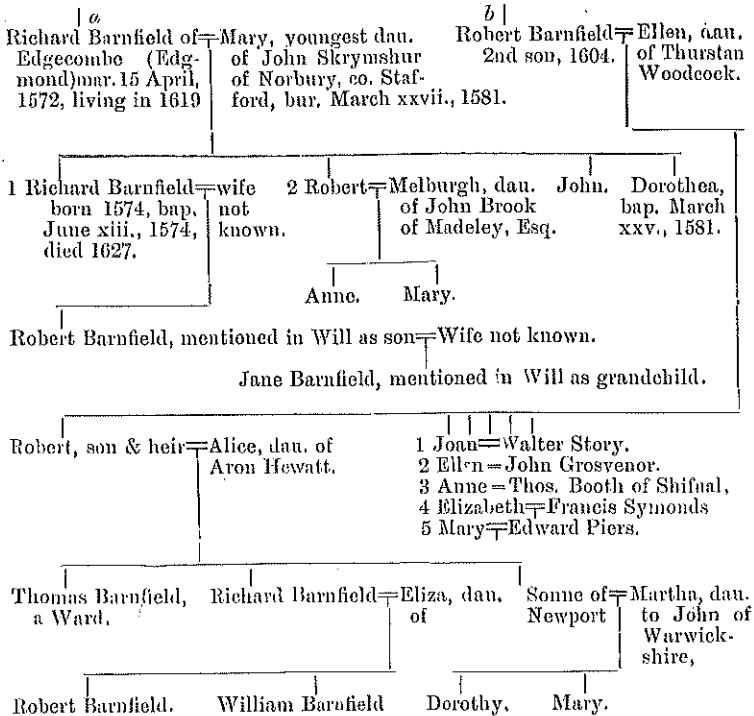
Robert Barnfield, one of the Lords of the Manor of Newport, by his Will dated 1568, gave towards the maintenance of the Almshouses  $13/4$  per annum for ever issuing out of the Gamble Birch adjoining Aston Lane, and  $13/4$  per annum for ever issuing out of a meadow in Newport called the Aller Meadow, near the Mill Dam.

Indenture made 4th October, 25 Elizabeth, between Richard Barnefeld, of Edgmonde, co. Salop, and Elizabeth Symons, of Newport, widow, whereby for £10 he sold to her and her heirs a close pasture or meadow containing three acres, adjoining land of Thurstan Woodcock on the south, and the King's highway called Aston Lane on the north, in the parish of Newport, now held by John Barnefeld, with woods and underwoods, &c. ; the said Richard to defend the same to Elizabeth against William Fitz John and Katherine, his wife, or any other person claiming the premises. She paying to the lord what is customary. Witnesses, Richard Barnefeld, son of the said Richard, Richard Hawkins, Robert Barnefeld, Richard Berry, Thomas Hawkins, William Felton. On October 10th, 27 Elizabeth, this Deed was confirmed in the same words. Attorneys John Symons and Richard Lorrimer, otherwise Berry, &c.

Richard Barnefeld, son of the said Richard above mentioned, was born at the Manor House, Norbury, County Stafford, the residence of his mother's father, John Skrymsher, in the year 1574, and was baptized in the Parish Church there on the 13th June, of that year. Although his father resided at the

Manor House, Edgmond, his mother seems to have followed up the usual custom of that period of a woman to go to her father's house for the birth of her first child. He was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. degree February 5th, 1591-2. His poetical merits are of no mean degree, his writings having been mistaken for those of Shakespeare. Little is known of his life beyond the dates of the publication of his successive poems. *The Affectionate Shepheard* appeared in 1594, *Cynthia* and the *Legend of Cassandra* in 1595, the *Encomion of Lady Pecunia*, the *Complaints of Poetrie*, and the *Combat betweene Conscience and Covetousness* in 1598. He died in 1627, and his Will is preserved in the Diocesan Registry at Lichfield. (His poems were collected and edited by Rev. Alexander B. Grosart, and printed for the Roxburghe Club in 1876). The following pedigree of the Barnfield family, taken from the Heralds' Visitation of Shropshire in 1564, may here be very appropriately added :—





Indenture made 1st September, 28 Elizabeth, between Walter Chetwynd and John Chetwynd, of Gray's Inn, Co. Middlesex, gent., and Elizabeth Symons, of Newport, that whereas Elizabeth is seised in fee of two acres of pasture in Newport, of the gift of Richard Barnefelde, gent., witnesseth that Walter Chetwynd and John Chetwynd shall purchase out of the Queen's Chancery a writ of entry.

This piece of ground is given by Elizabeth Symons to the Burgesses of Newport in 1593, for the benefit of the poor of Newport, as appears from the following Deed, dated 8th June, 35 Elizabeth. Elizabeth Symons, of Newport, grants to the Burgesses of Newport a close, croft, or pasture in Newport, in length next the lane called Aston Lane, and in breadth between the pasture of Thomas Woodcock, gent., called the Leassowe, on



the south part, and the meadow of Thomas Maxfield, gent., on the north part, which pasture is now in the tenure of John Barnefeld, of Newport. She to have it for life, and after her death, the Burgesses to bestow the yearly rent among the poor on Lady Day and the Feast of the Apostles Philip and James, for ever. Witnesses: John Manninge, Hugh Jones, Edmund Palmer, William Bowlas. This croft was then in lease to John Barnefeld, who was a tanner, which lease commenced about the 34th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and was to continue for the term of sixty-one years next following. It then duly came into the possession of the Burgesses. It appears that Elizabeth Symons, during her life, gave to the poor of Newport the yearly rent of 12s., issuing out of this croft.

In 1593, the Burgesses of Newport granted to Thomas Haken, of Newport, a plot of land between the house built there, called the Both Hall on the north, and the Alms-house and the house of William North on the south; in breadth 7 feet, and in length 68 feet, extending from the High Street on the west, to the Mansion house of Thomas Sawyer on the east, and from thence to the cemetery on the south, in the tenure of William North. Yearly rent 18d., 8th July, 35 Elizabeth.

In 1593, was made this indenture between the Burgesses of Newport and Thomas Bayly, of Weston co. Stafford, merchant of the staple, whereby they conveyed to the said Thomas, his heirs and assigns, a plot of waste land now built upon, in breadth 15 feet, and in length 8 feet, between the land of Thomas Bailly on the west, and the common street on the east, and another plot of waste, containing 12 feet in breadth, and 9 feet in length, between the land of John Bowers on the west, and the land of Thomas Pigott on the east, and the land of the said Thomas Bailly on the south, and the Rotten Row on the north, and formerly a well of water, and also another plot of waste in the Holes, in a field called Northbroom, between the land of the

said Thomas Bailly on the north and west, and the waste land of the Burgesses on the east. Which said premises lie in Newport, now in the tenure of Thomas Peate and John Symons, mercer, or their assigns. Yearly rent 14d. Dated 2nd August, 35 Elizabeth, by me Thomas Bailly.

In 1593 was made this indenture between the Burgesses of Newport and John Adams the elder, of Newport, butcher, whereby they granted to John Adams a plot of waste land in the Butcher Row, between the land of Francis Newport, Esq. on the west, and a street called St. Mary's Street on the east, now held by John Adams. Yearly rent 12d. Dated 2nd August, 35 Elizabeth.

In 1593 was made this indenture between the Burgesses of Newport and Robert Barnefylde, of Newport, whereby they granted to the said Robert Barnefylde a meadow divided into two parts in Newport, now called the Hole Meadow, near a lane called Aston Lane, between the land of Francis Newport, Esq. now in the tenure of William Justice on the east, and the land of Richard Barnefeld gent. on the west in the tenure of Thomas Crompton, gent., extending in length from the said lane up to a pasture, the hereditament of Robert Eyton, Esq., late in the tenure of William Tilston deceased, which meadow is now in the tenure of Thomas Maxfield gent., and five rods or ridges (selions) of arable land in Newport, in a field called Norbroome, of which three of them are equally in a furlong called the Daniel furlong, between the land of John Symons, adjoining the Daniel pasture, and another rod or ridge of the same land upon the Harber flat, between the land of Robert Eyton and the land of Thomas Tilston gent. on the east, and the fifth rod or ridge of land lies up on the middle flat near Daniel way, between the land in the tenure of Francis Herper, otherwise Henson, on the west and east, which five selions are now in the tenure of Thomas Maxfield, and two selions lie at the Clepitts, next the waste land of the said Burgesses on

the west and the land of Thomas Pigott, and extends in length from the way leading from the said town up to Calvercroft, towards Newport Pool, in the field of Northbroome, now held by Robert Barnefeld, and one other selion of arable land and a small piece of waste land enclosing the said selion lying in Norbroome, between a close of Thomas Hakyn, called the Wardens' Croft, and extending in length from the said way up to the pool; and also another plot of land in Maynard's Croft, in the tenure of Robert Barnefelde, &c. Yearly rent 8/3. Dated 2nd August, 35 Elizabeth.

In 1593 was made this indenture between the Burgesses of Newport and Thomas Cramer, of Newport, blacksmith, whereby they grant to Thomas Cramer and his heirs a croft or close in Newport, called God's Croft, between the lane called Aston Lane and a pasture called Gambles Burche, containing one acre and a half, at the yearly rent of twelve pence. Attorneys, Thomas Woodcock and Robert Barnefeld, gent, &c.

In 1593 was made this indenture between the Burgesses of Newport and Robert Brooke, of Chetwinend, co. Salop, whereby they granted to Robert Brooke a close called the Utter Calvercrofte, containing five small rods (selions) of land, and lying in Newport, and adjoining a field called Northbroome on the east, and a croft called the further Calvercrofte on the north, and five rods or butts of land arable in Northbroome between a parcel called Long Meadow and land in the occupation of Humphrey Aspley, and another parcel of arable land in Norbroome, in breadth between the land of Robert Barnefeld, gent., and the way leading towards the Marsh, and in length between the Marsh at one end and the land in the occupation of Thomas Tilston and John Adams, the elder; and also a well in Newport at the end of the enclosure, in the occupation of Francis Harper, otherwise Henson, which said premises are now possessed by Roger Corbett, gent., and the said Francis Harper. Yearly rent 2/-.

In 1596 was made this indenture between the Bur-

gesses of Newport and Thomas Benbow, of Newport, yeoman, whereby they granted to Thomas Benbow a plot of land lying at the end of a close called Henne Meadow, between the common pasture called the Marsh on the south, and a meadow late called Benbow's Meadow on the north, and abuts on the arable field called Northbroome on the east, another parcel of land adjoining the said Marsh on the east, north, and south, and the land of the said Thomas Benbow on the west. Yearly rent 6d. Attorneys: Robert Barnefield, gent., and Thomas Woodcock. Dated 15th May, 39 Elizabeth.

In 1596, Queen Elizabeth granted a charter to the Burgesses of Newport, confirming the charter of Edward VI. It is dated at Westminster 29th October, in the 39th year of her reign.

About this date Roger Symons presented to the Burgesses new leaden pipes to convey the water from the spring at the Wall's Head, near Church Aston, for the supply of the town of Newport. He also gave and assigned towards the relief of the poor people of the town of Newport an annual rent of 6/8, issuing out of a messuage in the occupation of Richard Brooke, adjoining the land of Sir Francis Newport, Knight.

In 1604, the Burgesses of Newport obtained from King James a renewal of their charters in the following words:—"James by the grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c. To all to whom the present letters shall come greeting." We have inspected the Inrollment of Letters Patent of the Lord Edward the Second, King of England, our progenitor, made in the 15th year of his reign, and enrolled and remaining of record within our Tower of London in these words:—"Edward by the grace of God King of England Lord of Ireland and Duke of Aquitaine: To the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs, Provosts, Ministers, and all his Bailiffs and faithfull subjects greeting." We have inspected a Charter which the Lord Henry,

formerly King of England, our progenitor, made to his Burgesses of New Burgh to this effect :—“Henry King of England and Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine Earl of Anjou : To the Sheriffs and all his Ministers of Shropshire greeting.” Know ye that we have granted to our Burgesses of New Burgh all their liberties and good customs as they the better and more freely had in the time of King Henry our grandfather. And therefore we prohibit every one on this account from doing them injury or contempt thereof; and if any one shall injure them in their liberties and customs, or in any of them, you shall without delay do them justice; thereof witnesses, Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury, John de Cummin, and Ralph de Tam at Breuwode. We also do ratify and confirm the aforesaid grant for us and our heirs, as far as we can, and do grant and confirm to the aforesaid Burgesses, and their heirs and successors, Burgesses of the same Burgh, now being in our hands for certain causes, as the Charter aforesaid reasonably testifies. Further, from the affection which we have towards Robert Levere, a Burgess of the same Borough, our host in the same Borough, willing to do the same Burgesses a greater favour We have granted to them for us and our heirs, that they and their heirs and successors, Burgesses of the same Borough, shall be for ever quit in all their goods and merchandize throughout our whole Kingdom and Realm, from liability to Murage, Pannage, Pontage, Piccage, and Stallage. These being witnesses, John de Brytaun, Earl of Richmond, Ademar de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, Edmund, Earl of Arundell, John de Warrenn, Earl of Surrey, John de St. John, Ralph de Camoys, Gilbert Peeche, steward of our house, and others. Given by our hand at Salop on the 23rd day of January, in the 15 year of our reign. By the King himself. We also do by these presents order to be exemplified the tenor of the Inrollment of the aforesaid Letters Patent at the request of the new Burgesses of New Burgh, in testimony whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made

Patent. Witness ourself at Westminster, the 17th day of August, in the 2nd year of our reign of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland, the 38th.

It appears that Edward VI. and James I. confirmed the charters granted to the Burgesses of Newport, but these do not appear on the Charter, Patent, or Close Rolls, but only on what are called the Confirmation Rolls, and upon inspecting these, a most extraordinary error came to light. Edward VI. charter (4 Edward VI., No. 2, Roll 119) recites those of Henry II. and Edward I., and states that the former was given at *Grenewood*. But James I. charter (2 James I., pt. 2, No. 9, Roll 158), gives the place where Henry's charter was granted as *Brewwode*, and recites that of Edward I. as Edward II. This very curious error (and a serious one to make in a charter, of all other documents)—for the words are the same in both that of Edward VI. and James I., so that there can be no mistake that the same charter as recited is meant—perhaps led Rev. R. W. Eyton, in his *Antiquities of Shropshire*, and others, into an error, and caused the somewhat confused statements. Newport, according to the Charter of James I., then had *new* Burgesses. Is it possible that that body had dwindled away or become of no importance, so as to require a fresh election? There is no record to give an answer to this question. However, Newport must have lost its original charter and applied for the confirmation as an exemplification was made on the 17th August, and the confirmation was passed four days later, viz., August 21st. “But we taking into our consideration and favour our Letters Patent, aforesaid, and all and singular the things therein specified and contained, the same for ourselves, our heirs and successors, as much as in us lies, have accepted and approved, and the same to the Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid, and their successors have ratified and confirmed, as by the aforesaid Letters Patent is sufficiently set forth. In witness we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent. Witness myself at Westminster, the 21st day of

August, in the second year of our reign over England, France, and Ireland, and over Scotland, the 38th.

In 1606 was made this indenture tripartite between the Burgesses of Newport and Richard Felton and John Woodhouse, of Newport, witnessing that the Burgesses have granted to the said Richard Felton and John Woodhouse a plot or parcel of waste land in the town of Newport, with a house built upon it adjoining the Common Hall, in length 30 feet, and in breadth 34 feet, now held by the said Richard Felton and John Woodhouse. Yearly rent, twelve pence. Attorneys: Thomas Benbowe and John Adams, the elder, &c. Dated 2 June, 4 James I.

The following is a copy of "An Ould Rentall or Auct<sup>o</sup>. of what was due to the Burgesses of Newport in the yerr 1618."—

			s.	d.
Imprimis of Robert Barnfield, dec <sup>d</sup>	...	...	8	7
of Rondle Staunton	...	...	2	2
of William Hawkins	...	...	2	2
of Thomas Bendbowe	...	...	1	4
of William Barnfield	...	...	0	6
of Widdow Tilston, Mr. Eyton paid it	...	...	4	0
of Thomas Hawkin	...	...	5	0
of John Symons the elder	...	...	1	3
of Beline Whitmore	...	...	1	4
of Widdow Whitmore	...	...	1	0
of Roger Sherman	...	...	1	5
of John Kinnaston	...	...	1	2
of Thomas Mason	...	...	1	0
of Thomas Pearson	...	...	1	4
of William Nowell	...	...	1	4
of John Adams the younger	...	...	1	0
of the said John and William Justice	...	...	0	9
of Thomas Pigot	...	...	1	2
of Widdow Berreg	...	...	0	2
of Thomas Bowers	...	...	0	10
of Henry Browne	...	...	1	6
of Richard Selman	...	...	1	4
of John Tilston of Wales	...	...	1	10
of Richard Bowdler	...	...	1	6
of Widdow Bowdler	...	...	0	4

			s.	d.
Imprimis of Roger Bendbowe	...	...	1	0
of John Adams the elder	...	...	0	2
of Mr. Bayley	...	...	1	2
of Robert Brooke	...	...	2	2
of Mr. Martin	...	...	2	0
of John Mathews	...	...	2	11
of Thomas Howle	...	...	0	3
of John Adams, laborer	...	...	0	2
of s <sup>d</sup> Walter Chetwind for his land	...	...	8	9
of William Gregoire	...	...	0	4
of Mr. Summerfield	...	...	3	5
and for Richard Hugh's howse	...	...	0	4
of Walter Harvie for a Carthowse...	...	...	0	3
of William Cramer	...	...	2	0
of Roger Symons deceased	...	...	3	9
of Thomas Aspley	...	...	0	4
of Edward Bomples	...	...	6	8
of Mr. Felton	...	...	1	0
of John French	...	...	1	0
for the land of Mr. Watson	...	...	1	0
of Richard Mathews	...	...	0	2
of Humfrey Fletcher	...	...	0	2
of Thomas Bowers, Butcher, for an ineroachm <sup>t</sup>	...	...	0	2
of Michael Offley	...	...	2	0
of Roger Justice for a Croft in Aston Lane	...	...	2	0
of Thomas Hand for a mixon place nere the gate	...	...	2	0

On 1st April, 7 Charles I., 1632, was made this indenture between the Burgesses of Newport, John Cotes, of the Middle Temple, London, Esq., Thomas Barnefeld and John Tilston, gents., witnessing that the Burgesses have let to farm to John Cotes, Thomas Barnefeld, and John Tilston, a close of land in the Parish of Newport, called the Marsh or the Great Marsh, part of the possessions of the Burgesses of Newport. To hold for twelve years. Paying yearly during the first six years £30, and the six last years, yearly £40. Witnesses: Walter Chetwynd, Walter Pygott, William Yonge.

In 1632, William Barnfield erected a suitable building for the public sale of butter and cheese. This generous and acceptable gift is recorded on a tablet in Newport



Church, in the following words :—“ William Barnfield of this town of Newport built a market house to sell Butter and Cheese in at his own cost, 1632.

On December 6th, in the 7th year of his reign, 1632, King Charles issued forth a commission to enquire how money, lands, stocks, &c., given to pious and charitable uses, were disposed of. Sir Richard Leveson, Sir Richard Newport, Walter Pigott, John Cotes, and William Yonge, Esquires, five of the Commissioners for Shropshire, directed the Sheriff, Thomas Ireland, to return a jury to sit at Newport to enquire into the charities belonging to that town. Accordingly, the Inquisition was held in Newport, on the 22nd day of September, in the 8th year of his reign. The jurors found that there was, and before the making of the Statute of 43 Elizabeth, and for the time whereof the memory of man then living was not to the contrary there had been, an hospital Almshouse, or house of maintenance and relief of four the poorest and most impotent persons of the said town of Newport, who should for the time being be abiding in the said almshouse, and not otherwise able to maintain and help themselves with meat, drink, lodging, apparel, and other necessaries, and that for the maintenance and supply of the said almshouse, and of the said poor and impotent persons therein, and of the rest of the poor people of the said town for ever there, then were and theretofore for the space above said, and by the space of divers years then last past before the taking of the said Inquisition there had been given limited, appointed, and assigned by the persons in the said Inquisition respectively named the several sums of money, messuages, burgages, curtilages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, and hereditaments, therein particularly mentioned, and after specifying the same respectively, the jurors said that the several sums of money were received and set forth by the churchwardens of the said parish, for the time being, at the rate of five per cent., or thereabouts, and bonds taken for the same in the said churchwardens' names, but with not such

care as were to be desired. Upon this Inquisition the Commissioners, by their decree, dated 22nd September, 1632, adjudged and decreed that the messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, sums and stocks of money in the said Inquisition named should from time to time thereafter be raised and improved to the best yearly profit, increase, and advantage, and duly and faithfully employed for the relief, maintenance, and sustentation of the said alms-folks, and of the rest of the poor people of the said Parish of Newport, according to the true intent of the donors thereof by the said Inquisition discerned and brought to light, and in regard as it did not appear in what person or persons the state in law of the premises by the founders given then was, the said Commissioners decreed that all and every the persons in the said Inquisition named, should severally and respectively before Christmas then next yield and deliver up the possession and seizin of all and every the said messuages, lands, and premises, and pay and give seizin of all the said rent-charges unto the several persons in the said decree mentioned (eleven in number) being inhabitants of the said town of Newport, named as governors of the said almshouses, and any four or more of them for and in the name of them and the rest of them, and that the said persons named as governors of the said almshouses, and their heirs and assigns should for ever stand and be seized of and in the said messuages, lands, and premises, rents, and hereditaments unto the use, behoof, and benefit of the said alms-folks and almshouses, according to the intent of the donors thereof in the said Inquisition expressed, and should raise and improve the same to the best yearly profit; And that when the number of the governors should be diminished or decreased by death or non-residence in the said town, or by refusal, then the said other persons remaining should elect such other person or persons residing in the said town as they should think fit, to make up the number of eleven, who should be called governors of the said almshouses, and be seized of the

said messuages, lands, and premises, rents, and hereditaments to the charitable use and intents aforesaid ; and they further decreed that the churchwardens of the said parish, for the time being, should from time to time thereafter, in their own names, let forth the said sums and stocks of money in the said Inquisition mentioned only unto such person or persons, and for such interest and upon such security and securities as by the said persons termed governors, or the greater number of them, residing in the said town of Newport, should be thought fit and directed, in which setting forth of the said money and stock such person or persons of the said town who did or should use any manufactory whereby the poor people of the said town should or might be set on work, should be by the said churchwardens and governors preferred and furnished with the said stocks and sums of money before any other, and that the said churchwardens and governors should yearly, within one month next after the feast of Easter, make, deliver, and give account in writing under their hands unto the *Corporation of Burgesses* of the said town of Newport, and their successors, or to the chief steward of the said Corporation, for the time being, for and concerning all and every of the said messuages, lands, tenements, rents, sums and stocks of money, and all profits made, or to be made thereof ; and the said governors, or the major part, with the churchwardens for the time being, should and might, from time to time, upon the death or displacing of any of the said alms-folks, elect and place in the said almshouses such other poor and impotent person or persons of the said town, as they or the major part of them should think fit, according to the intent of the founders of the said almshouses, and the said Commissioners further directed that all sums of money, messuages, lands, tenements, or hereditaments, thereafter, to be by any charitable person given to any charitable use within the said town, should be by the governors and churchwardens, for the time being, ordered, governed, disposed of, and managed, or by

their overseer, to be managed by others according to the intent of the donors thereof.

The eleven inhabitants of the town of Newport selected to be the first Governors of the Almshouses were William Nowell the elder, Thomas Symons, Francis Staunton, Thomas Barnfield the elder, John Tilstone, Robert Haykin, Robert Brooke, Lavis Sansom, Henry Brown, Thomas Haykin, Thomas Boycott the younger. The following are the benefactions respectively specified in the Inquisition.

Benefactions of Thomas and John Reynolds as given by Indenture dated 1st July, 1496.

One rent-charge of  $2/8$  per annum, which the jurors found was paid to the said almshouse by William Bromfield, of Newport, but out of what lands appeared not; which rent had been long so paid by the tenants or occupiers of the messuage or tenement wherein the said Bromfield then dwelled. A like sum of  $2/8$  per annum out of a messuage in Newport in the possession of William Richardson, and out of a croft called the Little Croft belonging to the said messuage, situate near to Long Meadow. The annual sum of 4s. out of a messuage or burgage in Newport, where R. Brooke dwelt, paid by the tenants and inhabitants of the said house. A like rent of 8/- per annum out of a messuage in Newport, the inheritance of John Tilstone, of Montgomery. A like rent of 12d. per annum out of a messuage in Newport in the holding of John Richards. A like rent of 2/- per annum out of a messuage in Newport adjoining the last in the holding of William Tilstone. Also a rent-charge of  $5/4$  per annum out of two messuages of one Sayer Brooke, late of Clarely, but which two tenements did not plainly appear to the Jurors. A messuage and curtilage in Newport, in the holding of Francis Thursfield, or of Robert Woodcock, or of Robert Birch. A meadow called the Hen Meadow, and a croft called Hen Croft, together with nineteen butts or selions, and one pike of land in Norbroom. The Jurors further found that one Robert Barnfield, late of Newport, deceased,

by his last Will about sixty years before the taking of this Inquisition, gave towards the maintenance of the said almshouses  $13/4$  per annum, for ever issuing out of the Gamble Birch adjoining to Aston Lane, then in the inheritance of Thomas Barnfield jun., gent. which had been duly paid. And also that the said Robert Barnfield further gave in his Will  $13/4$  per annum for ever issuing out of a meadow in Newport called the Aller Meadow near the Mill dam, in the holding of Isabella Wood. And the Jurors said that there belonged to the said almshouses one butt of arable land lying in the Hill Field in Church Aston, for which was paid yearly to the said almshouses 8d., and a chief of 2d. per annum to the Lord of the Manor of Aston. Also that there was belonging to the said almshouses another butt of arable land in Church Aston, in the Windmill Field, for which was paid yearly to the said almshouses 12d., but who was the donor of the two last-mentioned butts the Jurors were ignorant. The Jurors also said that one John Salter, gentleman, deceased, gave towards the relief of the said almshouses for ever an annual rent of 10/- out of a messuage in Donington, near Albrighton, in the county of Salop, which has been duly paid. The Benefactions in money, amounting in the whole to the sum of £161, are found by the Inquisition to have been given by the undermentioned charitable persons for the maintenance of the almshouses and poor people of the parish of Newport :—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Richard Wildie, of Ankerton	10	0	0
Mrs. Barber, Widow for the Towne Poor	10	0	0
Mr. John Daniffe, late of Newport	10	0	0
Mr. William Allen, late of Brockton	10	0	0
Mr. Oakes, of London	5	0	0
Mrs. Isabel Bold, Widow	5	0	0
Mr. John Sowdley	3	0	0
Mr. Edward Barber, of Flashbrook	1	10	0
Robert Eyton, late of Eyton, Esq.	20	0	0
Mr. William Walter	6	0	0
Mr. John Hitchcox			

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Humphrey Clarke	10	0	0
Mr. Richard Hawkins	5	0	0
Thomas Pigott, Esq.	8	0	0
Dorothy, wife of the said Thomas Pigott	2	0	0
Mrs. Eyton, widow	4	0	0
Mr. Richard Staunton	5	0	0
John Cotes, Esq., late of Woodcote	5	0	0
Mary, wife of the said John Cotes	2	0	0
Widow Upton	3	0	0
John Woode, Clarke	4	10	0
Sir Thomas Skrymsher, Kn <sup>t</sup>	10	0	0
John Benbow, Esq., for 33 years out of a farm at High Offley, per annum	2	0	0
Margaret Smart, late of London, spinster	15	0	0
	161	0	0

It appears from the books of the Salters' Company in London, that William Robson, a native of Newport, and citizen of London, and one of the said Company during his lifetime, viz, on 13th May, 1633, deposited in the hands of that Company the sum of £5,000 upon agreement as to £2,500, one moiety thereof, that the said Company should allow and pay after 5 per cent., that is to say, £125 per annum yearly for ever, to certain uses in the said agreement expressed, that is to say, To the poor of the town of Newport, in Shropshire, where the said William Robson was born, £10. To the minister or lecturer of Newport, £5, and to the master of the Free School there, £5.

In 1635, Richard Baxter, the celebrated Nonconformist divine, fulfilled his first engagement in life by teaching the Free English School at Newport.

In 1635, some irregularity having occurred in the payment of £15 to the Crown on behalf of the minister and schoolmaster of Newport by Humfrey Walcott, out of the Rectory of Clun, he was cited to appear before the Court of Exchequer on Thursday, 11th June, Trinity term, 11 Charles I. The following is an abstract of the proceedings:—

Whereas in the terme of Easter in the eight yeare of the

reigne of our Sou'aigne Lord the Kinges Matie that now is William Noye, Esq<sup>ro</sup> his Maty then attorney gen'all on the behalf of his Matie exhibited an english bill into this Courte against Humfrey Walcott, Esq<sup>r</sup> And in the said bill his Maty said Attorney Generall did shewe whereas the late Queene Elizabeth of famous memorie about the moneth of September, in the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> yeare of her Highnes reigne as well for and in considera'con that Sr Henry Darcy Knight and Peter Aston gent. had graunted and surrendered unto her Highness her heires and successors all that seite of the late Monasterie of Sawley and the Manor of Sawley with thappurtenances in the Countie of Yorke as for diverse other good causes and considerations her Highness thereunto especially moving was graciously pleased to give and graunt unto the said Sr Henry Darcy and Peter Ashton divers and sundry Manors lands tenements Rectories Prebends tieths and other hereditaments as well spirituall as temporall with their app'tenances in fee farme as should amount to the yeerlie value of £300 over and above all reprises. And for the accomplishment of the said graunte of that value Her Highness did give warrant for the making forth of p'ticulars and P'tres patente of such of Her Highness Lands and hereditaments of the natures aforesaid as should amount in yearely rent to make up the said value. And thereupon amongst other things a p'ticular was p'cured to bee made forth as p'te of the said yearly value of all that Rectorie of Clun alias Clune with the rights members and appurtenances whatsoever in the said County of Salopp to the late Monasterie of Wenlock now dissolved sometimes belonging or app'taining as p'cell of the possessions thereof, sometimes being &c.

\* \* \* \* \* two pages omitted \* \* \* \* \*

Humphrey Walcott purchased the Rectory of Clun from Thomas Harley, who had bought it from Edmund Downing and Peter Ashton.

\* \* \* \* \*

It appears that the same was sold under its value, by some considerable sum.

Humphrey Walcott appeared and answered in Michaelmas Term, in which answer he quotes the grant to Edmund Downing and Peter Ashton, of the Rectory and Church of Clun, dated 27th October, 23 Elizabeth, and that £22 and £15 were reserved, making in all £37, but on the sale to him in or about June, in

the 25th year of Elizabeth, for valuable considerations, conveyed only the Rectorie and other premises in Clun.

The rents having been duly paid until about the 7th of James I, when by some means, Henry, Lord Howard, late Earl of Northampton, procured letters patent and duly received the rents, keeping the same from the Crown. About the 13th of James I. the lessee, one Thomas Harley, conveyed his interest to Humfrey Walcott, father to defendant, who died about August the next year. He appears to have duly paid the rent to the Earl of Northampton.

And the said Deft in his answer further sayed that all the colour and pretence wch his Mat'y said Attorney gen'all had or could have to question him the said Deft in this matter (as hee conceived) was for that the said Pres patents made unto the said Downing and Ashton and dated the said xxvii<sup>th</sup> daye of October in the said xxiii<sup>rd</sup> yeare of our late Queene Elizabeth as aforesaid the said yearly sume of xv<sup>li</sup> *pell* of the said yearly rent of xxxvii<sup>li</sup> was men'oned to be payeable for the salary or stipend of the Curate of Newporte and a schoolemaster there though by the same Pres patent it plainly *app'ed* that the same xv<sup>li</sup> and the other xxii<sup>li</sup> were limited to bee paid by the said Patentees their heirs and assignes unto the said late Queene her heirs and successors unto the hands of the Receivers generall of the County aforesaid or the Receipt of the Exchequer and the same or any *p'te* thereof were not at all limited to bee paid by the said Patentees, their heirs and assignes to the said Curate or schoolemaster or either of them neither were the same premises chargeable with the paiement of any money at all to the said Curate or schoolemaster or either of them to this Defts' knowledge.

Nor did his father Thomas Harley or Downing and Ashton pay the same for such purpose. It appears upon the hearing that the Crown were deceived in the value of the said Rectory of Clun and ought to have recompence for the same at Common law. Defendant's Counsel alleged that there was £15 yearly, payable by the Receivers general of Salop, for the stipend or salarie of a Curate and schoolmaster in Newporte perpetually.

After reciting a certain Act of Parliament, passed in



the 43rd Elizabeth, touching confirmation of grants, &c., and that Walcott was purchaser of only part of the Rectory and that there were others answerable for the fraud, and it says "if any such were," the Court taking the whole into consideration made the following final decree :—

It is therefore this day ordered, adjudged, and decreed by this Courte, that the said Humfrey Walcott shall paie to his Ma<sup>tie</sup>, or his Highness assignes xxiii yeares purchase amounting to the some of iii<sup>l</sup>ix<sup>ii</sup> (£360) according to ancient Decrees, and p<sup>re</sup>cedents at the Com<sup>on</sup> Lawe in the like nature for the said reprized value of xv<sup>ii</sup> p. ann. And likewise contynue the paiement of the said xv<sup>ii</sup> p. ann. to the hand of his Mat<sup>y</sup> Receiver gen<sup>all</sup> for the stipend and sallarye of the Vicar and schoolemaster of Newporte and their successors for ever, according to the tenor effect and reservation of the before men<sup>con</sup>ed Pres patent made to the said Edmund Downing and Peter Ashton as aforesaid w<sup>th</sup>out any deduc<sup>con</sup> or abatement thereof, or of any p<sup>te</sup> or p<sup>cell</sup> thereof. And that the said Deft. Humfrey Walcott shall have the assistance of this Courte for contribuc<sup>on</sup> to bee had against the Patentees or any former or other assignee or assignees of the said p<sup>erson</sup>age or any p<sup>te</sup> thereof if hee shall thinke fitt to sue for the same this order and decree notw<sup>th</sup>standinge.

In 1637 the great great grandson of Margaret Plantagenet, daughter and heiress of George, Duke of Clarence, was a humble cobbler at Newport. Roger Stafford was born at Malpas in 1572. He was undoubted heir to the ancient family of the Staffords, the undoubted representative of the princely Dukes of Buckingham, and a descendant of the English Royal Family. He unsuccessfully claimed the Barony of Stafford created in 1547. This unfortunate man in his youth went by the name of Fludd or Floyd, the surname of an old servant in the family of Mr. Richard Corbet, of Cowlesmere, near Lee, co. Salop, his mother's brother. Dying without issue, with him the male line of the Staffords became extinct. He left a sister, Jane, who married a man in humble circumstances—a joiner—and had a son as stated above, living in Newport in 1637, following the occupation of a cobbler.

In 1643, Michael Ward was born in Newport. Having learnt the first rudiments of knowledge at Newport Free School, where he continued until he was 13 years of age, he went to Dublin where he entered at Trinity College, in 1656. He rose rapidly through many steps until he ended in being made Bishop of Derry.

In 1645, Mr. Richard Pigot, master of Newport School, was appointed by the Parliamentarians "Chiefe Schoolemaster" of Shrewsbury School. He was son of Richard Pigot, of Northwich, co. Chester. His spelling his name with one T does not prove him disloyal. Richard Baxter, speaking of him, calls him "his old friend." He continued to hold his appointment at Shrewsbury for the space of ten years.

During the Civil Wars, which at this period raged throughout England, Shropshire, noted for its loyalty to the throne, was the scene of much strife and contention. The town of Newport seems, however, to have escaped much notice. In its neighbourhood, Lilleshall Abbey and Longford House were garrisoned and fortified—the former for the king, and the latter for the Parliamentarians. "St William Vaughan and Col. Ellis gave a greate overthrowe to the parl. of Wemm at Longford nere Newporte 25 March 1644. Vide Mercur. Aulicu<sup>s</sup> in 20<sup>o</sup> Martii."

In 1645, His Majesty King Charles was traversing Staffordshire, Herefordshire, Wales, and Shropshire. On May 17th, he reached Newport, where he was met by Sir William Vaughan, Governor of Shrawardine Castle. Captain Symonds,<sup>1</sup> in his *Diary of the*

<sup>1</sup> Captain Richard Symonds was son of Edward Symonds, second son of Richard Symonds, of the Poole, in the parish of Great Yeldham, co. Essex, who married Eliz., second daughter of Robert Plume, of Yeldham Hall. This Richard was son of John Symonds, of Newport, and Anne, daughter of Thomas Bendbow. This John was son of John Symonds and Margaret, daughter of Thomas Maynard. Thus Captain Richard Symonds was descended from a Newport family, whose ancestors originally came from Croft, Lancashire, and had for their arms *Az*, a chevron eugrailed between 3 trefoils *or*, Crest out of a mural crown *or*, a boar's head *arg.* tusked *or*.

*Marches of the Royal Army*, says, "His Majesty lay at Mr. Piggott's at Chetwyn one myle beyond Newport. The two troopes at Edgmonde. On Tuesday May 20th His Majesty with his army removed from Chetwyn through Drayton com. Salop and lay a myle farther." Here he was met by Lord Byron, with some troops of horse from Chester.

During all the time the King's Commissioners were exacting heavy contributions from the country. They had so harried the county of Shropshire, that it was a scene of deplorable confusion. The general poverty would hardly permit the execution of their designs, while their urgent necessities would admit of no delay. The country people, weighed down by their burdens, turned restive and obstructed the service. The inhabitants of Newport and Much Wenlock refused to pay their assessments, and laid hands on some of the collectors. Richard Baxter's father was imprisoned at Lilleshall Abbey, because he would not destrain upon defaulters in Shrewsbury. Richard Baxter, himself being at Longford House in his capacity of Chaplain to the Parliamentarian forces—an office to which Oliver Cromwell had appointed him.

The Civil War continued with unabated vigour until King Charles fell into the hands of the Parliamentarians in 1646. After a long trial, he was sentenced to be beheaded on January 30th, 1649. In the meanwhile Oliver Cromwell had inaugurated a new form of government under the title of The Commonwealth of England. This the Scotch Presbyterians refused to acknowledge. They resolved to adhere to Monarchy, and proclaimed Prince Charles as their King. The Scottish army, commanded by General Leslie, attacked the troops of Cromwell near Dunbar, but were completely beaten. Cromwell, however, soon after being seized with a violent fit of illness, was obliged to return home. Charles, then, with an army of 14,000 men, marched into England, and arrived at Worcester, whither he was followed by Cromwell and the Par-

liamentarian forces. Hereon ensued, on September 3rd, 1651, the battle which ended so disastrously for the Royal cause. General Leslie, with the remnant of the Scottish horse retreating northwards, arrived at Newport, where he intended his men to halt for rest and refreshment, but the enemy appearing their departure had to be hastened. In the meanwhile His Majesty had been conducted to a place of safety at Boscobel by the Earl of Derby, who had previously proved its security during his flight from the battle of Wigan. Leaving His Majesty, as they hoped in seclusion, the Duke of Buckingham, Earl of Derby, Earl of Lauderdale, Lord Talbot, Lord Wilmot, Colonel Thomas Blague, Colonel Edward Roscarrock, Mr. Marmaduke Darcy, Mr. Richard Lane, Mr. William Armorer, Mr. Hugh May, Mr. Charles Giffard, Mr. Peter Street, and some others, in number about sixty horsemen, made their way towards Newport with the hope of overtaking the Scottish horse. As soon as they were fairly on the road Lord Leviston, who commanded His Majesty's Life Guard, overtook them as they were pursued by some of Cromwell's troops. The Lords then, with their followers, faced about and repelled this attack. At Newport, however, a party of Colonel Lilburne's men met them in front, whilst other Parliamentarians pursued them in rear. In this dilemma the Royalists turned aside into the fields close to, but a little to the west of Salter's Hall, where a sharp engagement took place, in which they were worsted, the Earl of Derby and many others being taken prisoners. Lord Talbot, however, seeing no hope during the fight, fled to his father's house at Longford, and, after being concealed there for some days, so escaped. The Duke of Buckingham, Lord Leviston, Colonel Blague, Mr. Marmaduke Darcy, and Mr. Hugh May saved their lives by flight and concealing themselves in the woods of Cheswardine. In 1835, when the Shropshire Union Canal was being made through the fields where this engagement happened, there were found

many skeletons laid in rows, as was usual after a battle. At various times have been dug up coins of Charles I., amongst which were a half-crown of the York mint, and two shillings, off one of which the inscription had been clipped.

In 1656 a copy of "The Settlement for William Adams, his Free School and other Charitable Uses in the Town of Newport" was enrolled in Chancery. William Adams was born in Newport in the year 1584. Having entered into business in London, he there so prospered that he amassed much wealth, the greatest portion of which he granted for the benefit of his native town. He<sup>1</sup> became a citizen of London and a member of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers, which company he entrusted with the management of his munificent bequests. His benefactions are so extensive and varied that there is not sufficient space here to give a full description; they will form the substance of a future paper. A short account, however, may be given as recorded on a tablet in Newport Church:—

A table representing the pious and charitable deeds of William Adams, Esq., born in this town of Newport, and citizen of London, the which were performed and settled by him in his lifetime 1657, who deceased 1661.

The said William Adams, Esq., purchased two Burgages in Newport aforesaid, and thereupon founded at his own proper cost and charge: First, A fair and sumptuous building, containing one Free Grammar School, with a Library over the same, and two convenient

<sup>1</sup> Many years ago there was a tradition current in Newport that William Adams was, in his younger days, apprenticed to a butcher, and, having stolen a calf, ran away to London to escape the consequences. The story altogether lacks probability. But in later times a gentleman formerly residing in Newport was accosted by the proprietor of an eating house in London, who informed him that he, the proprietor of the house, had been many years before in the service of a farmer in the vicinity of Newport, and had run away to escape the consequences of illegal fishing, and having made his way to London had commenced his commercial career by selling a few oysters in the streets. By care and diligence he had got on so well as to become the proprietor of an eating house or oyster shop.

Houses at each end thereof, one for the Master and one for the Usher, with necessary courts and gardens to either of them. Secondly : Two Almshouses adjoining to y<sup>e</sup> street for four single people, two whereof to be men, and two women to inhabit in successively for ever, all of which amounteth to the value of £7,500, building and purchase. Thirdly : He purchased more-over a fair and ample Estate in Lands at Knighton, in the county of Stafford, in the present possession of Luke Justice of Knighton, gentleman, which said lands are charged with the clear rent of £175 per annum for ever and payable to the uses following :—This Grammar School is free for 80 scholars within three or five miles. First. To the Minister of Newport for the time being, the sum of £20 per annum for ever. Secondly. To the Head Schoolmaster of the said Free Grammar School, the sum of £40 per annum for ever. Thirdly. To the Usher of the same, the sum of £20 per annum for ever. Fourthly. To four scholars elected thence successively £20 per annum for ever. Fifthly. To three boys set forth apprentices the sum of £24 per annum. Sixthly. To one or two boys for ringing the bell and sweeping the said school the sum of £2 per annum. Seventhly. To the four alms-people the sum of £20 16s. per annum for ever. Eighthly. To 20 decayed tradesmen of haberdashers in London £20 per annum. Ninthly. For entertainment of the visitors the sum of £1 4s. per annum. Tenthly. To the officers of Haberdashers' Hall the sum of £2 per annum. Eleventhly. For the repair of the said school, library, and houses the sum of £5 per annum for ever. Every seventh year the boys' £24 goeth to the visitors from London. Moreover, the said William Adams, Esq. purchased two pieces of land in Norbroom, adjoining to the Marsh, which said pieces of land he settled in trust for an additional maintenance to the master of the old school in Newport, to the intent that all children born there may be taught freely till they be capable of admission into the Free Grammar School of his own foundation ; the said land

yielding the rent of £9 per annum for ever. Lastly, he bequeathed in his last Will and Testament a legacy to the said town of Newport, being the sum of £550 for erecting a Market House there, which was accordingly done in due time and substantial manner by his executor, William Justice, Esq., being finished Anno Domini 1665. "He being dead yet speaketh" (Heb. xi., v. 4). "The memory of the Just is blessed" (Prov. x., v. 7). "Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days" (Eccles. xi., v. 7).

From the will of William Adams it appears that Newport School, or as it should be called Newport Grammar School—the title given it in 4th Edward VI.—was kept in the Booth Hall. "And for as much as it is being by experience found that the Booth Hall, where the school for the said town was formerly kept, was very ill convenient if not hurtfull both for the town schoolmaster and scholars the said Wm Adams for a further manifestation of his good and pious intentions did for redress herein purchase a messuage or Inn called or known by the sign of the Angel in Newport aforesaid with the courts yards gardens and grounds thereunto belonging and Two other houses there, with the appurtenances and hath thereupon at his own proper cost and charges erected and built one large and spacious house for a school house and two other houses for the Schoolmaster and Usher there adjoining and also made provision for the building of four alms houses for four poor people to dwell in."

This school William Adams styled "The Free Grammar School of the Foundation of William Adams," and gave the title of the English School to the original school, as appears from his grant of lands for its maintenance. "I give unto the Bayleys and Burgesses of Newport aforesaid and to the said Burgesses and their successors for ever All those two closes or parcells of land situate and being in Norbroom in the county of Salop near unto the side of a Marsh now in the occupation of Edward Marson and which I purchased

(together with the two pieces of land called Gamble Byrches before herein given to my cousin John Taylor) of Thomas Barnfield. Nevertheless upon the trust and confidence and to the intent and purpose that the rents and profits of the said closes or pieces of land shall be from time to time for ever hereafter paid and disposed towards the maintenance of the *English* School usually kept in the Booth Hall in Newport aforesaid, and the Teacher or Teachers thereof for the time being to the end that the children of the poorest people in Newport aforesaid of civil and honest demeanour may be there freely taught to read English." So great was Wm. Adams's desire that this bequest should be faithfully carried out, he appended to his will a codicil, dated 18 March, 1660, wherein, after specifying the gift of the lands to the English School, and that they were of the yearly value of £9, the following is set forth :—" Now it is my earnest request to the Court of Assistants of the Company of Haberdashers of London and to their successors that whenever there shall be a journey by them to visit their schools in those parts that those who are appointed so to do should diligently from time to time make enquiry there whether or no the said profits of the said lands so given by me be employed to the use that is appointed by me in my said will, I not knowing any better or more probable way whereby the said school may have the benefit of the gift in future times."

By an Act of Parliament passed 12 Charles II., after reciting the erection in Newport of Schoolhouses and Almshouses by William Adams, and his settlement of lands for the maintenance thereof, it was enacted that the Master and four Wardens of the Company of Haberdashers in London, for the time being, and their successors should be governors of the possessions of the Free Grammar School of Newport, and that they should have a common seal for the sealing of their affairs, and hold all possessions granted by William Adams for the maintenance of the School and other charitable uses,



And that all the estate should be free from Parliamentary and Parochial Taxation. It is stated that Charles II., being informed of the great liberality of William Adams, sent for him and asked him whether he had not greatly injured his fortune; to which he answered, that it had rather increased it, and if His Majesty would procure him an Act of Parliament to exempt his estate from taxes, he would give him £1,000.

On August 21st, 1661, William Adams departed this life at his residence in London, in the 77th year of his age. He was buried on Tuesday, September 3rd, in the Parish Church of St. Lawrence, Jewry, when an able and eloquent sermon was preached by Rev. Thomas Horton, DD., from Luke xvi. v. 9. Dr. Horton, in his discourse, which was specially addressed to the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the Company of Haberdashers, after giving a *resumé* of the life of William Adams, and extolling his virtues and pious deeds, concluded as follows:—"Let those whom God hath blest with such opportunities as he had, be careful all they can to improve them as he did, that so making to themselves friends of this Mammon of unrighteousness, they may at last be received into those everlasting habitations which God hath prepared for all that love His appearing."

In Newport Church Register is the following entry:—"June, Memorandum, that upon Saturdayer<sup>e</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 14 of June 1662 was y<sup>e</sup> first foundation stone layd of y<sup>e</sup> Market House in Newport being y<sup>e</sup> gift of Mr. William Adams by Mr. Paget head workman." The erection of this commodious and much-needed edifice was begun and completed through the munificence of William Adams, who, in his will, provided as follows:—

I give and bequeath unto Luke Justice of Knighton and John Badually of Ellerton, Robert Hawkins Wm. Staunton Wm. Brown and John Taylor of Newport in the county of Salop the sum of five hundred and fifty pounds in trust nevertheless to be by them disposed of and laid out in building of a Market House with a Town Hall over it in the Town of Newport in the county of Salop and my will and mind is that the

said building shall begin with one year after my decease and be built according to a model and other directions by me provided and left in the hands of my executors and the said five hundred and fifty pounds shall be paid by my executors in form following: that is to say one third part thereof in convenient time to provide materials to begin the said work and one third part more thereof according as the said work shall go on and as there shall be occasion to use the money and the other third part residue thereof when the said building shall be completed and finished and I will that the said Market House shall be supported with pillars of hard stone which shall or may be got in my land at Knighton and the Building over them to be of brick, stone, and timber, and for the place where the said building shall be placed I conceive no place fitter than between the Height of the Pavement in St. Mary's Street between the house usually called by the sign of the Crown and the Back house lane. And my will is the building shall be erected in no other place whatsoever and that the said building shall be so placed that no prejudice in the least may come to the lights of the house and shop wherein my kinsman the said John Taylor now dwelleth. And my will is that for non-performance of this my will touching the building in the manner as is before expressed the said five hundred and fifty pounds shall be disposed as followeth: that is to say one moiety or half part thereof for and towards building of a Market house in Drayton in the said county of Salop, one hundred and fifty pounds to be laid in books such as shall be the most useful for the library of my school in the said town of Newport a catalogue whereof I desire may be made by the master of the said school and deliver it to my executors who with the advice of such others as he shall think fit shall buy the said books to the value above mentioned and send them down to the said school thereto to be chained as the rest are. Item I give and bequeath to the said trustees last mentioned for the removing and placing of the Building made by Mr. Barnefield and commonly called his Market House, the sum of twenty pounds which I desire may be placed elsewhere in the most convenient place in the town by the licence and consent of the Lords of the said town as also of the Burgesses there.

The foundation stone having been laid, and the stone for the pillars obtained from the quarry at Knighton, the building was pushed forward with the utmost diligence. According to the instructions and plans laid down by William Adams in his will as quoted above, in

about seven months the Market House was completed. The following entry in Newport Church Register gives the date when it was opened for public use:—"That upon Saturday y<sup>e</sup> 28 of November 1663 was y<sup>e</sup> first house market begun that ever was in this town of Newport." This seems, however, to be rather pretentious, since William Barnefield had previously in 1632 erected "a Market house to sell butter and cheese in," towards the removal of which William Adams, in his will, bequeathed £20. Whether or not this building was removed or remained in its original situation by the Cross set up for the soul of Roger de Pinclesdon, at the east end of the Church, there is no record to say. The building, commonly called the Buttercross,<sup>1</sup> and supposed to stand on the original site, remained until 1866, when it was taken down, being of no use, as the Markets had been transferred to the then new General Market Hall. The plan of the Market House was of an oblong form, in length 79 feet. and in breadth 32 feet. The upper part, or Town Hall, built of brick with stone facings, was supported by stone pillars, between which the area was appropriated to a corn market. On the east side, in St. Mary's Street, was the staircase, under which was the lock-up, consisting of two cells, where prisoners were lodged to await their conveyance to Shrewsbury Gaol. Rev. J. B. Blakeway, in his manuscripts, gives the following description. The Town Hall stands nearly in the centre of the town. It is a brick building supported on stone pillars, a pent-house roof falls from the sides of the hall to cover the wings. The lower part is used for a corn market, and above is a spacious room for the transaction of public business and where dancing assemblies have been sometimes held.

In the rentals which have been preserved of the Newport Almshouse property, the rents of the two

<sup>1</sup>The Buttercross consisted of a slated roof, supported by stone pillars, with the Cross in the centre, and was 14 yards in length, and 6 yards in width.

butts of land in Church Aston, are shown in 1663, to be respectively 2/- and 2/6; in 1699, 3/- and 4/-; in 1729, 5/- and 5/-; and in 1764, 3/- and 5/-.

Tradesmen's tokens were issued in the middle of the seventeenth century in almost every town and village of the Kingdom to supply the want of small change, as copper had not been coined in any like sufficient quantity. In Newport seven tradesmen seem to have followed the fashion, as appears from the under-mentioned list of local tokens:—

- |   |   |               |
|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | Obv. Thomas Chaloner, T.M.C.<br>Rev. In. Newport, 1664—His Half-peny ...  | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 2 | Obv. Samvell Clarke, The Mercers Arms<br>Rev. In. Newport, 1666—His Half-peny ...                               | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 3 | Obv. Samvell Downton, of 1669, His Half-peny, S.D.<br>Rev. Newport, in Shropshire. The Mercers Arms             | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 4 | Obv. Robert Hyddell—A bird, R.M.H.<br>Rev. In. Newport, 1666—His Half-peny ...                                  | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 5 | Obv. Arthvr Rowe—A.E.R.<br>Rev. In. Newport, 1658. Arms of the Rowe family,<br>a beehive surrounded by bees ... | $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| 6 | Obv. John Thornton. A Thorn Tree.<br>Rev In. Newport, I.E.T. ...  | $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| 7 | Obv. Thomas Yovnge—The Mercers Arms<br>Rev IVNIER, in Newporte ...  | $\frac{1}{4}$ |

The cisterns which contained the public supply of water were situated in different parts of the town of Newport. One of these cisterns at the south end of the Town Hall was commonly called "The Talbot" cistern from its proximity to the Talbot Inn. Whether or not it was of more than average depth or from other circumstances Anne Brooke fell in and was drowned. She was buried on the 14th January, 1665.

It appears from a tablet in the Church of Newport that William Barnfield in 1665 gave towards the Free School for children to be taught six days' work of ground in Norbroom, and that he also gave four tenements let for 16s. each a year, and a shop then in the holding of Robert Trevitt let for 30s. a year. The quantity of land thus given and specified as six days'

work of ground was divided into six parcels, each parcel containing one day's work, whereof the total measurement was found to be about four acres.

A memorandum in Newport Church Register states that in "May, William Adams Citizen of London. gentle., nephew of the founder, gave the Market House Bell with the effigy of a man to ring it Anno 1665." This bell is still in use at the Town Hall, and has the following inscription cast round its rim:—"William Adams gent. of London gave this Bell 1665."

On the 19th of May, 1665, a fire broke out in Newport which, from the amount of property destroyed, may indeed claim to rank as "The Great Fire of Newport," for it is stated that 156 houses in the best part of the town, with malthouses, stables, and other buildings belonging thereto, were burned down, also the original Market House and part of the Market Hall recently erected through the munificence of William Adams, together with the effigy of the man given by his nephew to ring the bell. A description of the architecture used in the town at this period was gathered from the front of a mansion exposed when pulling down in 1879 a house situated near the Butter Cross, where the house and shop of Mr. W. Plant, fishmonger, now stands. There was a beautiful and singularly interesting framework of carved oak of a similar pattern to that seen in the Council House, Shrewsbury. Most of it was divided into squares of about two feet each way. Below each of the two upper windows were two spaces of about the same size, but with circular tops, the form of these niches giving the impression that they formerly contained figures of some sort. The adjoining house, from the burnt appearance of the bricks, visibly shows that it was built from remnants of the fire, the date 1666 on a beam in front corroborating the fact. From the burnt wood, bricks and tiles which have from time to time been dug up in Beaumaris Lane and the Gravelly Walks, the town appears to have been built more to the west of the Church than at present. In

reference to this disastrous fire the following verbatim extract is taken from the Parish Register in Newport Church :—

Memorandum that on the ffridaye in the afternoone beeing the 19 daye of May Anno 1665 a sudden furyous fire arose which began in the house of Richard Shelton a smith living at the Antelope whiche by Saturdaye noone followinge were burned out of habitation about 162 families besides the better of 10 more of houses puld to pieces and much prevented. Thos. Munk (Parish Clerk and Registrar). Newport sin no more lest a worse punyshment b'fall thee. The losse to Newport was 30000 poundes. T. Millington (minister).

Another account is given in a book (lately in the Library of Salter's Hall)—a presentation copy of Habington's *Life of Edward IV.* to the Earl of Shrewsbury, with the following address prefixed in his own handwriting :—“ On the 19th of May in 17 Car. II. a dreadful fire broke out in this town about four in the afternoon which in the space of a few hours consumed more than 156 habitations most of the best houses in the body of the town with all the malthouses, barns and stables belonging to them together with the old Market House and part of the new and almost all the goods and furniture, money, plate, liquors, and provisions to the amount of £23,948 viz. £12,948 for the building £11,000 for the goods &c. : a brief was issued for the relief of the sufferers on the 15th of October 18 Car. II” of which the following is a copy :—

Charles the Second by the Grace of God King of England Scotland, France, and Ireland Defender of the Faith, &c : To all and Singular Archbishops Bishops Archdeacons, Deans and their officials, Parsons, Vicars, Curates and all other Spiritual Persons And also to all Justices of the Peace Mayors Sheriffs Bayliffs Constables Churchwardens Chappel wardens, Headboroughs Collectors for the poor and their overseers And to all officers of Cities Boroughs and Towns Corporate And to all our officers, ministers and subjects whatsoever they be (as well within liberties as without) to whom these presents shall come greeting. Whereas upon the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May in the 17<sup>th</sup> year of our reign between the hours of 3 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon a most sudden fearful and dismal Fire happened in our

Market town of Newport in our County of Salop, which within the space of few hours consumed and burnt to Ashes above one hundred fifty and six habitations, most of them consisting of the best houses and those in the body of the said town with all the Maulhouses Barns stables and other buildings thereunto belonging and also the old Market house and part of the New amounting unto the sum of £12,948 and upwards; together also with most of the household goods furniture considerable sums of money, Plate, shop goods, Mault, Wines, Beer and other provisions in great abundance amounting to £11,000 and upwards; so that the whole loss sustained by the said fire doth amount in all to the sum of £23,948 and upwards to the ruine of most of the Inhabitants of the said towne their wives and children unless they be speedily supported and relieved by the Charitable benevolence of well disposed Christians as appeared not only by the humble supplication and petition of the said suffering inhabitants but also by a certificate made at our General Quarter Sessions of Peace holden at Shrewsbury for our said County upon Tuesday in the week next after the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr in the said 17<sup>th</sup> year of our reign under the hands of our trusty and right well beloved Francis Lord Newport and our trusty and well beloved Sir Thomas Wolryche Kn<sup>t</sup> and Bar<sup>t</sup> Sir Richard Otley, Knight, Francis Thornes Robert Owen Charles Baldwyn Adam Otley and Thomas Baudewin Esq<sup>rs</sup> Justices of Peace in our said County of Salop. Upon the humble supplication therefore of the said distressed inhabitants and the above specified certificate we do hereby recommend their sufferings to the Charity of our loving subjects; the said distressed inhabitants greatly hoping by that means to obtain a comfortable supply towards their great losses from their fellow christians whose compassion surely will not be lessened because deplorable objects of this nature are often exhibited to them but in this case their Bowels of Compassion will be the more enlarged and their charity extended in a more liberal and bountiful manner towards these distressed inhabitants their pressing necessities which are loud and should be prevailing orators, requiring more than ordinary pity and relief for to see a people at mid-day full and flourishing in good buildings ample furniture plentiful provisions and store of necessaries (in some even to superfluity) and before midnight deprived of all, made empty and nothing, compelled to lodge in open air and to seek hospitality, food and necessaries at the hands of others, cannot but convince ingenious natures of the mutable and uncertain state of all earthly enjoyments

and beget in them a sympathy of the misery of their fellow-members. And as it should stir them up to magnifie the distinguishing love of God to them that were not made to these sufferers examples of God's indignation, but these sufferers to them; so we doubt not but well-disposed Christians will be prevailed withal to honor their Maker and Preserver in this particular by shewing mercy to these distressed sufferers; since as they have opportunity (and here is indeed a seasonable and needful one) they should do good to all men and never be weary of well doing: for if their bread be cast upon the waters after many days they shall find it. Give a portion to seven, and also to eight for thou knowest not what evil may be upon the Earth. Evil hath befallen our flourishing Cities and towns. And now that God's hand is removing why should not the same be furthered by Charity even to these sufferers who have in this diseased time and in their distress, shewed kindness to the afflicted and infected even to the hazard of themselves.

Know ye therefore that of our especial grace and princely compassion We being deeply sensible of the sad and lamentable distress of the said sufferers have given and granted and by these our Letters patent under our Great Seal of England do give and grant unto our said poor distressed subjects the suffering inhabitants of Newport aforesaid or to their deputy or deputies or the bearer or bearers hereof authorized and deputed in this behalf as afterwards in these presents is appointed full power Licence and Authority to ask gather and receive and take the Alms and charitable Benevolence of all and every our loving subjects not only Householders but also servants, strangers and others within all and every Counties, Cities, Boroughs, Towns Corporate, Cinque Ports, privileged places, Parishes, Chapelries, Towns, Villages, Hamlets, and all other places whatsoever in our Kingdom of England, and Dominion of Wales and within our Town of Berwick upon Tweed for the said pious and charitable use. Whereas we require will and command you and every of you, that at such time and times as the said distressed inhabitants, their said Deputy or Deputies, the Bearer or Bearers hereof shall come and repair to any of your Churches Chapels or other places to ask and receive the gratuities and charitable benevolence of our said loving subjects quietly to submit and suffer them so to do without any manner experiencing your lets or contradictions. And we do hereby also require will and command all and every our High Sheriffs within our said Kingdom of England and Dominions of Wales, that forthwith upon the sight of these our Letters Patent, and upon the receipt of



the true copies or Briefs hereof, they send or cause to be sent a convenient number of the said copies or Briefs under their hands & the seals of their offices unto Mayors, Bailiffs, Head Officers and Chief magistrates of every City, Borough, Cinque Port, and Town Corporate, and to the High Constables respectively of each Hundred, Wapentake or Division within our said Counties, which said Mayor, Bailiffs, Head Officers, Chief Magistrates and High Constables are hereby willed and required to take special care that the said copies or Briefs be forthwith delivered unto the said Parsons, vicars and curates within their several and respective jurisdictions, and you the said Parsons, Vicars and Curates are deliberately called upon, some Lords day, soon after that the said copies or briefs hereof shall be tendered unto you, and before the expiration of the presents to publish and declare unto our said loving subjects the terms of these our Letters Patent (but of else of the same day) and earnestly to exhort, persuade and stir them up to extend their liberal contributions to the relief of the urgent necessities of the said distressed inhabitants and you the said churchwardens, chapel wardens, collectors for the poor, and their overseers together with such other honest active men as you shall think fit to take to your assistance are hereby likewise required, on the week days next following to go from house to house and diligently to collect the charitable benevolence of our said loving subjects and the sums of money collected in virtue hereof, you are to endorse upon these our letters patent, or the said copies or briefs, in words at length and not in figures, together also with the names of the counties, Cities, Towns, Parishes and Chapelries, respectively wherein and the time when such sums are gathered, which endorsements are to be subscribed by the ministers and yourselves, and also to be entered unto your Books of accompts for the said Parishes and Chapelries, and you are also to deliver the said monies, with all the said copies in manner following that is to say the monies that shall be collected within the said Cities, Boroughs, Towns Corporate, and the Cinque Ports, you are forthwith to return and deliver together with the said copies or briefs, there endorsed unto the Mayors, Bailiffs, or other chief officers thereof respectively, and in no wise to delay the same, as you will answer at your perils, whose receiving thereof with his or their acquittance, shall be unto you, and every one of you a sufficient discharge in that behalf, and the monies collected within our City of London and the liberties and suburbs thereof, you are to deliver together with the said copies or briefs there endorsed unto the said Bearer or Bearers hereof upon his or their demands, whose

acquittance or acquittances for the same shall be your sufficient discharge for so doing, and the monies gathered elsewhere, you are forthwith to return and deliver together with the said copies or briefs unto the said High constables as you will answer the contrary thereof at your perils, whose receiving thereof with his or their acquittances shall be unto you, and every one of you a sufficient discharge, which said Mayors, Bailiffs, High Constables and other officer or officers are hereby willed and required forthwith to pay and deliver the said monies with all the said copies or Briefs by them and every of them to be received as aforesaid unto the said High Sheriff respectively who are hereby also required to pay and deliver the same unto the said Bearer or Bearers hereof whensoever they or any of them shall require or demand the same but no other person or persons whatsoever whose receiving thereof with his or their acquittance shall be unto you the said high sheriffs a sufficient discharge for so doing, which said bearer or bearers hereof are hereby willed and required upon his or there receipt for the said monies they shall be collected within our Cities of London and Westminster and our Borough of Southwark the suburbs and liberties thereof forthwith to pay the same & to deliver such of the said copies as shall be then endorsed unto our Trusty and well beloved Sir Thomas Adams Knight, William Justice and William Webb of our said City of London Esquires and aldermen, and to pay the monies collected elsewhere, and to deliver these presents together with the residue of the said copies unto our Trusty Thomas Talbot of Longford, Francis Forrester of Watling Street, Francis Levison of Sheriffhales, Phillip Eyton of Ellerton, Robert Sandford of Sandford, John Cotes of Woodcot, Walter Pigot of Chetwind, Richard Smyde of Edgmont Esquires, or any five of them, to the only use or behoof of the said distressed Inhabitants, and we do hereby name constitute and appoint the said Thomas Talbot, Francis Levison, Philip Eyton, Robert Sandford, John Cotes, Walter Pigot, Francis Forrester, Richard Smyde, Sir Thomas Adams William Justice and William Webb the Treasurers and commissioners of all such monies as shall be collected and received by virtue hereof. And lastly our will and pleasure is that the said Church Wardens in London and the suburbs and liberties thereof, or any of them, but such only as shall be appointed and authorized so to do by deputation or writing under the hands and seals of the said Treasurers and Commissioners or any five of them, and that they or any five of them shall take good security of all and every such person or persons as shall have to do in the

collecting and receiving of the said monies of or from the said High Sheriffs and Church Wardens, and also that the said Treasurers and Commissioners shall pay and distribute the said monies unto and amongst the said poor suffering inhabitants according to their several poverties, and to the proportion of each of their several losses, as they or any five of them shall find fit in their directions, and equal any law, statute, Act, ordinance or provision heretofore made to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding. In Witness whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent for the space of six whole years next after the date hereof to endure and no longer. Witness ourself at Westminster the Fifteenth day of October in the eighteenth year of our reign.

God save the King.

[Endorsed] Copy of the Brief of the great Fire at Newport which happened the 15th Oct. 1666.

The greater part of the town being reduced to ashes, the inhabitants must have been severely impoverished. Rev. J. B. Blakeway, in his MSS., says, but does not state his authority, that "on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1665 £20 and a contribution was ordered to Newport in considerac'on of y<sup>e</sup> great fire w<sup>ch</sup> lately consumed y<sup>e</sup> whole Town, except some few edifices with y<sup>e</sup> church and schools and also of y<sup>e</sup> poor condic'on of y<sup>e</sup> inhabitants thereof." From a tablet in Newport Church, it appears that the Market House, built by Mr. Barnefield, being burnt, "The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Thomas Talbott Esq. of Longford (one of the Lords of the Manor) did rebuild at his own cost one larger than the old one was Anno 1665." The Burgesses, the governing body of the town, lost in the fire all their books of deeds and elections (from which much of the information given in this and the former paper had been extracted by Randolme Holme in 1648.) In this sad dilemma, they do not seem to have exerted themselves to assist the prevailing distress. At least there is no record to prove it, nor do they appear to have held any meeting until the year 1668, when the following appears as the first entry in their minute book :—

Memorandum—That upon the twentieth day of March in the one and twentieth years of the Reigne of oure

Sovereigne Lord Kinge Charles the second Kinge of England &c Anno Do<sup>mini</sup> 1668 wee whose names are subscribed Burgesses of the Towne of Newport in the countie of Salop at a publick and generall meetinge did elect and choose the Worsh<sup>pp</sup><sup>n</sup> Walter Pigott of Chetwyn in the said Countie of Salop Esq<sup>r</sup> our High Steward of the Corporac<sup>o</sup>n of Newport aforesaid whoe upon our humble request in that behalfe was pleased to do us the favour to accept the place.

William Horne, Bayliffe  
of the Burgesses of  
Newport

William Staunton  
John Taylor  
William Browne  
Will. Hawkins  
Thos. Barnfield

Thos. Tramer  
Thos. Hawkins  
Lewis Sansom  
Thomas Hayley  
Thomas Stanton  
Axton Sharman  
William Richardsonne  
Richard Berrey

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